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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

- To many Israelis, "early empowerment" is another step towards a Palestinian state. But some Palestinians believe it is a ruse, a way to trap them in an "autonomy minus" controlled by Israel. Dore Gold describes the options. Section B.
- In an Ashdod supermarket there is a plastic chair that gets you pregnant. Well, numberless women who swear by it, anyway. Abraham Rabinowitz tells it all. Magazine.
- The Tel Aviv suburbs' new breed: rich Israeli kids who have it made...or do they? Allison Kaplan Sommer checks out the instant-gratification generation. Magazine.
- Super superstar Placido Domingo, who got his first break in Tel Aviv over 30 years ago, sings here soon. Helen Kaye tells the incredible tale of one of music's greatest careers. Time Out.

No hitchhiking in areas

OC CENTRAL Command Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran yesterday issued an order prohibiting soldiers and civilians from hitchhiking in the territories.

While the validity of the order for civilians may be moot, an army source said it should be considered a statement by the IDF that it will not be responsible for the safety of those who choose to travel through hitchhiking and are victimizing themselves.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza issued a statement supporting Biran's order and appealed to Egged to increase the number of buses in the territories so people would not need to hitchhike. According to the council, Egged decreased the number of buses plying routes in the territories after the Hebron massacre in February.



Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau arrives in Hebron yesterday to tour the Machpela Cave, closed since the massacre in February. The chief rabbis are to make recommendations to the prime minister regarding prayer arrangements for Jews and Moslems. (Story, Page 3) (Flash 90)

Shohat: TASE levy income will be used to reduce taxes

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday promised that none of the revenue from the tax on stock profits would be used to fund the state budget, but would be returned to the public in the form of reduced taxes.

Speaking at Labor's Political Bureau session, Shohat said that by next week he would present the cabinet and the public details regarding the two possible taxation methods: Either taxing profits 10% without offsetting losses, or taxing profits at a higher rate while allowing losses to be deducted.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin,

MICHAEL YUDELMAN
and EVELYN GORDON

who arrived at the session together with Shohat in a show of support, nonetheless said, "I hope my friend, Minister Shohat, delivers the five hundred million shekels from those taxes. Because you can't eat pork and not have it drip down your chin, too." Labor Party sources explained that Rabin meant you could not impose a tax on the public without proving that it yields the expected income.

The prime minister denied any pressures or threats from business leaders following the decision to

tax the stock exchange, saying all the reports to this effect "are groundless, as far as I am concerned."

Shohat thanked Rabin for his support and expressed confidence that the capital gains tax would eventually be considered one of the party's and the government's most significant achievements.

Shohat said the public welcomes and supports the new tax, adding, "There isn't a person in this room who thinks that it is right to tax labor, and not to tax capital profits."

Meanwhile, Knesset Finance (Continued on Page 2)

3 die in road accidents; 17 fatalities this week

THREE persons were killed and three seriously injured in four road accidents yesterday, bringing the week's traffic fatalities to 17.

Baruch Jamil, 62, of Moshav Ranen in the Negev, died when the car he was driving swerved into the path of an oncoming tank transporter near Rahat in the afternoon. His car was crushed in the impact, killing him instantly.

Early in the morning, near Hadera, a car collided head-on with a truck on the Lehavot Haviva bridge, killing the car's driver and severely injuring a passenger.

Later in the day, an elderly man was struck and fatally injured by a pickup truck as he attempted to cross a street in lower Haifa. Witnesses said the man, who carried no identification, was jaywalking. He died soon after being taken to Rambam Hospital.

In Tel Aviv, two motorists were seriously injured when their station wagon was crushed by the

Jerusalem Post Staff

boom of a fire truck which collided with it while racing to a fire. Rescue workers employed a giant crane and a large industrial saw to extract the victims, a man and a woman, from their car. The accident, which took place at 7 a.m. at the intersection of Ibn-Gvirol and Rokah boulevards, drew a large crowd and blocked the road for several hours. The

injured were taken to Ichilov Hospital.

Police said that while no common denominator could be cited as a cause for this week's large number of accidents, many resulted from sudden swerving into the opposite lane of traffic. Traffic division head Danny Liron said yesterday this might be explained by drowsiness brought on by the severe heat of the past week.

See article, Page A7

PLO investigating embezzlement by Orient House officials

THE PLO is investigating alleged embezzlement by organization officials operating out of Orient House in Jerusalem, Palestinian sources said.

Five officials, including a senior aide to the top PLO figure in the city, Faisal Husseini, are under investigation, the sources said.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat has asked Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Protective Security Service, to personally oversee the internal probe, they said.

Some \$5 million were taken over several years, according to one source. Another source, however, said the sum was smaller. Salah Zuhair, the newly appointed head of Husseini's office, categorically denied that PLO officials in Jerusalem are under in-

BILL HUTMAN

vestigation for embezzlement.

"It is all rumors and totally untrue. This is another example of false rumors being started by the enemies of Orient House," Zuhair said last night, adding that the "enemies" could be either Israeli or Palestinian.

A Palestinian source, however, said that at least one PLO official in Jerusalem had already been "threatened" by Rajoub's agents to pay back the money he took.

"Rajoub's people made it clear to him that it would be to his benefit to return the money," the source said.

The source said that over the past two weeks, several of the officials suspected of taking PLO money for their personal use were interrogated, but the investigation

has yet to be completed.

In a related development, a senior military source confirmed yesterday that Rajoub has been given a permit allowing him to travel freely in the territories and within the Green Line.

Palestinian sources said Rajoub is using this freedom of movement to extend the operations of the Protective Security Service throughout Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem, despite the government's insistence this is forbidden.

The permit allows Rajoub to leave Jericho, where he is based, whenever he wants and without giving the army prior notification, the military source said.

The permit was granted about a month ago, and remains in effect through the middle of next month, the source added.

Freed Palestinians threaten more terror unless conditions improve

FREED Palestinian prisoners yesterday threatened a mutiny against Israel and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority if there is no improvement in their living conditions.

"We will escalate things far worse than throwing stones and firebombs if the Palestinian Authority does not improve our daily living conditions," said Hilal Abdel Hak, 26. The former leader of an underground cell was given a life sentence for strangling a suspected Israeli informant to death.

The over 4,500 Palestinian prisoners released by Israel had to

News agencies

sign a pledge renouncing violence and backing the Israel-PLO autonomy accord as a condition for their release.

But most said they had not realized that the accord mandated that they serve out their sentences in the self-rule areas. So far about 550 prisoners, with anywhere from a few months left on their sentences to life terms, are confined to Jericho.

Yesterday they sent a six-member delegation to Arafat in the Gaza Strip to warn that they

would start a mutiny rather than continue living under these restrictions. By midnight, they were still waiting to meet with Arafat.

"We can attack settlers traveling on Road 90," said Abdel Hak, referring to the main road running through the town that some Israelis prefer to a lengthy bypass route. "And the Israeli army roadblock is not far from here."

The list of demands sent to Arafat included better housing, technical training programs, social rehabilitation and jobs. They also said he should press for the release (Continued on Page 2)

Daylight saving time ends tomorrow night

EVELYN GORDON

DAYLIGHT saving time is slated to end tomorrow night at midnight, at which time clocks should be turned back one hour.

A petition to the High Court of Justice, however, is demanding that daylight saving time remain in force until October 1. The petition was filed yesterday by Tel Aviv attorney Amnon Ben-Dror and the Association for Freedom from Religious Coercion, which he heads.

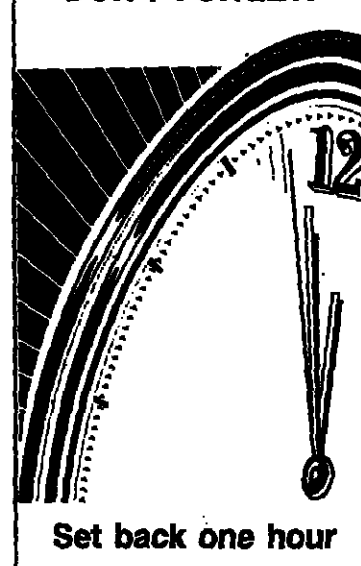
Ben-Dror also asked the court to issue a temporary injunction preventing the clocks from being changed until his petition is heard. Postponing the time change for a few days would cause very little damage, he argued, whereas allowing the clocks to be changed might prejudice a decision on the petition.

Ben-Dror said that changing the clocks now is giving in to the "dictate of a religious pressure group which represents a minority of the people" - namely Shas. Religious Sephardim say penitential prayers

at dawn for a month prior to Rosh Hashana, so making dawn come earlier makes their lives easier.

However, going back to standard time now makes life worse for most of the population, Ben-Dror argued. Early nightfall increases the chance of traffic accidents and crime, as well as the consumption of electricity, he said. Furthermore, having the sun come up earlier in the day means the temperature is higher in the morning. This cuts back on both workers' productivity and students' attention span, he said.

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Weather

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear and slightly warmer. Shabbat: no change.

Location	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	11	15	cloudy
Buenos Aires	11	15	cloudy
Chicago	11	15	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	28	cloudy
London	11	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	15	cloudy
Madrid	11	15	cloudy
Moscow	11	15	cloudy
New York	11	15	cloudy
Paris	11	15	cloudy
Rome	11	15	cloudy
Stockholm	11	15	cloudy
Tokyo	11	15	cloudy
Vienna	11	15	cloudy

Hamas calls for dialogue with PLO

HAMAS yesterday called on the PLO to hold a dialogue with them and to end the police hunting of its members.

"We are willing to begin a dialogue if freedom is guaranteed and other point views are respected," Hamas said in a leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip.

But Hamas said it would still resist Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

The leaflet said the fight was in the interest of all Palestinians.

"Do you believe the Zionist soldiers and settlers will stop killing and chasing our children without any resistance?" Hamas asked in the leaflet. "You can be sure that the Jihad will continue until the end of days," it said.

Hamas said they are aware of the difficulties of the Palestinian Authority in attempting to respect the self-rule agreement, that mandates it stopping attacks on Israeli targets.

"We understand the difficult circumstances that the poor agreement has put you into," the leaflet said. "We do not want to embarrass you more, do not embarrass us with your arrests."

Hamas issued a veiled threat regarding the crackdown against its followers since August 14, when it claimed responsibility for a series of shooting attacks around settlements in Gaza that left one Israeli dead and six injured in a day.

"We say loud and clear that we have not responded to your arrests of our fighters," Hamas warned. (AP)

'Ban on papers opposed'

A POLL by a Nablus research institute indicates that the great majority of Palestinians oppose the ban by the Palestinian Authority on two local pro-Jordanian newspapers.

Asked if they supported the ban on the *An-Nahar* daily and *Al-Akbar al-Balad* weekly, 15.7 percent said yes, while 65.9 percent said no and 18.4 percent had no opinion.

The poll's result is even more interesting in light of two other questions.

Asked who should have "religious sovereignty" over Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, 67.5 percent said sovereignty should be Palestinian, and only 0.8 percent said Jordanian, while 7.6 percent said Jordanian-Palestinian and 21.8 percent said Islamic.

An-Nahar was banned from distribution on July 28 by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat because it appeared to take a view supporting Jordanian sovereignty over the Islamic holy places. The poll shows that opposition to closing it is high despite negligible support for Jordanian religious control in Jerusalem.

The survey was conducted by the Center for Palestine Research and Studies among 1,562 interviewees between August 11-13.

In another question, 12.7 percent said they supported freedom of the press only for those who supported the "official national line," while 25.4 percent supported freedom for opposition points of view as well, and 55.2 percent supported freedom for Palestinian and non-Palestinian views without conditions.

Khalil Shikaki, director of the CPRS, said the editor of *Al-Quds*, the only remaining Palestinian daily, refused to publish the poll showing Palestinian support for a free press "because it mentioned *An-Nahar*." *Al-Quds* has not yet mentioned the ban on *An-Nahar* and *Akbar al-Balad*, while the weekly English-language *Jerusalem Times* mentioned, without explanation, that *An-Nahar* suspended publication two weeks after it closed.

Palestinians take over Nablus school system

THE school system in Nablus was handed over to Palestinian control yesterday.

"It is a great feeling because we have waited for this moment for 27 years," said Muteb Abu Hija, deputy director-general of the Palestinian Authority's education department.

"For the first time in our history we are in charge of our education."

The handover in Nablus followed the first transfer of a school system a day earlier in Ramallah. The entire system is due to be in Palestinian hands by August 29, just before the September 1 start of the school year.

Yesterday's signing ceremony in Nablus came hours after Israeli and Palestinian negotiators initialed a new agreement in Cairo to transfer to the Palestinians responsibilities for health care, taxation, tourism, welfare, youth and sports in the West Bank. The two sides are due to decide on a timetable in talks September 12.

In a ceremony in Nablus, both Israeli and Palestinian officials signed the transfer agreement, shook hands and wished each other good luck.

Minutes after the Israeli officials left, the black, red, green and white Palestinian flag was hung on top of the building just few yards away from the main Israeli army base in the city.

Palestinians also took control of the school systems in Jenin, Tulkarm and Kalkiya yesterday and Bethlehem and Hebron on Sunday. (AP)

Soldiers wound four Arabs in Nablus riot

FOUR Palestinians, three men and a woman, were shot and wounded by army gunfire during disturbances in Nablus yesterday.

Arab sources said the incident began when members of an army undercover unit chased a youth who had been throwing stones at Israeli cars. Dozens of other youths gathered and began to throw stones and vegetables.

The soldiers threw sound grenades and fired live ammunition at the crowd. The four victims, who suffered moderate wounds, were hospitalized in Nablus and reported to be in fair condition. Disturbances continued until later in the day.

The army confirmed an incident in Nablus, but did not immediately give details.

Beilin calls Darawshe plan to visit Iraq a mistake

News agencies

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday that any Israeli who attempted to make contact with Iraq would be making a "very grave mistake."

Beilin, who spoke on Channel 11, was reacting to a reported plan by Democratic Arab Party MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe to travel to Baghdad and draw Iraq into the Middle East peace process.

"I see this as very grave and I really hope that no Israeli will join this idea," Beilin said.

"It would be a very grave mistake on our part, while we are trying to convince the world not to make contact with Iran and Iraq, to be the only one who break the circle and enter Iraq," he added.

Darawshe intended the trip to highlight Iraq's importance in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Arab diplomatic sources said Wednesday that Iraq is seeking a dialogue with Israel and that Vice President Tariq Aziz has met with Israeli officials.

The sources also said that Iraq is hoping to use Morocco as an intermediary to forge diplomatic relations with Israel, which could then pressure Washington into dropping sanctions against Baghdad.

Beilin denied the claims.

"There is nothing in the air," Beilin said. "All this talk comes, I think, from an Iraqi source who wants only to prove some openness on our part and perhaps to exploit this openness with a look towards the United States."

"Under no circumstances will we play the Iraqi game," he added.

Previous reports of contacts between Iraq and Israel have been denied by both sides.

"The problem with Iraq is not with its neighbors but its leader," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Malta. "He is a liar and a killer. That is Iraq's problem and as long as he remains their leader Iraq will not be on the agenda of peace negotiations."

Peres also said yesterday that an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights would be linked to the strength of peace agreements with Syria.

Peres, in Malta for a three-day official visit, denied Israeli media reports that he may have met Syrian officials during his stay on the island. "No, this time, but maybe in the future," he told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry.

Peres said the two nations had to negotiate on both official and informal levels in the peace process.

Peres is the first senior Israeli government minister to visit the Mediterranean island. His visit follows a trip to Israel in February by Maltese Foreign Minister Guido De Marco.

He is due to return to Israel this morning.

Sarid: Painful withdrawal may be necessary, Page 4

Winning numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 334393 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 600400 won a Honda sports car.

Tickets numbered 342321, 322539, 583125, 472485, 563878, 886997, 273329, 440457, 566595, 351897, 647964, 362298, 162789, 669018, 593776, 010116, 221496, 560204, 031773, 311257, 540859, 244571, 450064, 164029, 422469 and 777735 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 94814, 45355, 58122, 40841, 98868, 84545, 68432, 89455, 66299, 13872, 72651, 18682, 76258, 07888, 29489, 48142, 08791, 62865 and 24448 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 341, 094, 802, and 963 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 59, 93, 15 and 75 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 75, 92, 57, 69, 55, 21 and 66 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 1 won NIS 5.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, king of hearts, seven of diamonds and king of clubs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Students switched identities for test

Tel Aviv fraud detectives yesterday questioned two women in their twenties suspected of defrauding the National Testing and Evaluation Center during a university admissions test.

The two allegedly exchanged photographs on their identity cards so that the one with the better knowledge of English could take the exam.

Their friend's place. The two admitted the act and were released on their own recognizance.

Colonel reprimanded for shelling incident

An IDF colonel was reprimanded yesterday for his part in an artillery-shelling incident last week in the Golan Heights.

In the incident, four 155mm artillery shells were erroneously fired at the Gamla archaeological site, landing only a few hundred meters from a group of tourists. An investigation conducted by the Training Safety Department of the General Staff, found that the colonel, who was overseeing an exercise in a battalion commanders course, should have noticed the artillery battery was several degrees off target before the firing took place.

No one was hurt in the incident, but it has been classified by the army as a "near-fatal accident."

Murder indictment filed in stabbing

Avraham Ben-Hamo was charged by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with the murder of Yehoshua Danzashvili six weeks ago. Ben-Hamo, 24, of Lod, was arrested July 21 on suspicion of stabbing Danzashvili to death in a knife fight at the Elmondo nightclub in Jaffa.

SHOHAT

Even two Likud MKs, Michael Eitan and Ovadia Eli, said they favored the idea in principle - in contrast to party chairman Benjamin Netanyahu, who favors a turnover tax.

"I have been demanding the imposition of a tax on the stock exchange for a long time, as long as it includes the possibility of offsetting losses," Eitan said.

However, he added, the way in which the decision was made - with the tax first being planned without officers, and then being changed by the cabinet, so that investors still don't know how much of a tax to expect - was disastrous. As a result, he said, he is still not sure whether he will support the final bill.

"No one knows what we're really talking about - including the finance minister!" he said. "Only an idiot could say yes to Shohat's plan [now], when he himself doesn't know what it will be."

Eitan also charged that despite the Treasury's talk about lowering the tax burden, taxes have actually increased as a percentage of GDP, from 37% in 1991 to 40% currently.

Haim Kaufman (Likud), expressed the official Likud position that a turnover tax would be better, because it is simpler. Shohat has flatly rejected this idea, saying it is both unjust and would depress market activity.

However, both Kaufman and Ariel Weinstein (Likud) said any market tax now was a bad idea, because the bourse is already low. Depressing it even further will make it difficult both for the government-to-own state-owned companies and for the private sector to raise capital, Kaufman said.

FREED

Most of the freed prisoners have been crammed into two crumbling military camps and two public buildings in Jericho, sometimes living 12 to 20 per room.

At least nine have been arrested by the IDF for trying to sneak out of the Jericho area.

Members of the Arafat administration have said they would try to solve some of their problems.

Saeed Erekat, local government minister for the Palestinian Authority, said the cornerstone was laid yesterday for 32 apartments for ex-prisoners, using \$550,000 donated by the Dutch government.

Jibril Rajoub, head of security services in Jericho, yesterday denied that armed, wanted terrorists had sought refuge in Jericho.

He traveled to Gaza yesterday with the six released prisoners to meet with Arafat. The former prisoners received special Israeli permission to leave Jericho and were escorted by border policemen.

Rajoub added that the PLO is keeping to all of its commitments under the Cairo accords. However, Israeli security sources say there are some 20 wanted Fatah terrorists and another 20 Hamas terrorists who are being harbored by the Palestinian Authority in Jericho.

On Wednesday night, one of the Hamas terrorists wanted for involvement in the Afula bombing in April died in Jericho, where he had been hiding.

Mohammed Sawarna, 25, of Kabatiya, became ill with cancer a month ago and was hospitalized in the city. Hundreds of Kabatiya residents attended his funeral yesterday.

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Hizbullah gunman killed in artillery duel with IDF, SLA

A HIZBULLAH gunman was killed in fierce artillery duels between the extremist Shi'ite organization and IDF and South Lebanese Army troops in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday.

The heavy exchanges began around 5:30 a.m., when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with anti-tank weapons, machine guns and mortars at IDF and SLA positions in the Soujoud and Rehan areas.

Dozens of mortar rounds fell near the IDF and SLA posts, but they caused no injuries or damage.

IDF and SLA gunners responded by blasting suspected Hizbullah positions in the rocky hillside terrain north of the zone, with scores of artillery, tank and mortar shells.

Hizbullah later announced that one of its men had been killed during the course of the exchanges, which lasted for nearly four hours.

DAVID RUDGE

Reports from Lebanon said there was also some shelling by Hizbullah towards the Christian township of Marjayoun, inside the zone, and in the Jezzine area, also a Christian enclave, north of the zone. There were no reports of casualties as a result of the attack.

The long-range duels erupted again in the afternoon, after Hizbullah fighters fired towards IDF and SLA positions in the Aishiyeh area, also in the eastern sector of the zone, prompting more return fire.

The death of the Hizbullah fighter yesterday brought to four the number of gunmen killed in clashes or long-range duels with IDF and SLA troops in and north of the zone in the space of a week.

The two Palestinians killed in a clash with IDF paratroopers on Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning were identified as belonging to Naif Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front group of George Habbash.

They had apparently been on a mission to attack IDF and SLA targets when they encountered the paratroop unit and were killed in the subsequent gun battles.

Last Thursday, Hizbullah gunmen ambushed a patrol of Givati Brigade soldiers on the coastal road between Rosh Hanikra and Ras Bayyada, by detonating roadside explosive charges and opening fire at the troops.

The soldiers charged at the attackers and killed one of them, although the remainder of the Hizbullah squad managed to escape. Two IDF soldiers were lightly

wounded in that incident.

In another incident yesterday, SLA sappers safely destroyed a roadside bomb that had been discovered earlier by SLA troops near Beit Lief village, in the western sector of the zone.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that the IDF had finally lifted its siege of the village of Yochmor, just north of the zone, which had lasted for over a month.

The newspapers said a bulldozer had filled in a large hole that had previously been dug in the access road to the village, effectively cutting it off from the rest of Lebanon.

The reports said the Lebanese government had categorically rejected suggestions that Lebanese army troops would deploy in the area to stop "resistance activities" as the price paid to Israel for lifting the siege on Yochmor.



Five of the six Indian orphans, together with a JDC worker from Bombay and a special envoy from Cleveland.

Six Indian orphans to settle in Ashkelon

SIX young orphans from the remote Indian village of Pali, a five-hour drive from Bombay, are due to arrive here today and to settle in Ashkelon.

The Malyankar family - three girls and three boys, aged 10 to 19 - will live together in a four-room apartment, where they will be cared for by municipal social workers.

They will also be assisted by Solomon-Hai Dighorkar, who coordinated the American-Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's welfare activities in Bombay and was in direct contact with the children during the year they spent in there. He will "get them settled and help them to communicate."

The children speak only rudimentary Hebrew and the Indian dialect Marathi.

"The children's father, Avraham, who had a stand where he sold vegetables from his fields, died in 1989," Dighorkar said yesterday, in a telephone interview from Ashkelon, where he settled last month. "Two months later, their mother, Julie, died too. The villagers told us that they had eaten or drunk something which made them sick."

He said there were about 40-50 Jews in Pali, almost all farmers, and that they had maintained their Jewish traditions. Because of India's caste system, local Jews, known as the Bnei Yisrael, were prevented from assimilating.

After being orphaned, the children received a monthly stipend from the JDC, remained in the family but were cared for by two unmarried uncles. When it was decided to move them to Bombay, they stayed at an ORT hostel and became interested in Israel after seeing films and learning about Israeli culture. Dighorkar said.

In 1993, the children applied to the Jewish Agency asking to make aliya.

"Moses, 19, Yael, 16, Yacob, 15, Danny, 14, Rebecca, 12 and Shalom, 10, need special as-

BATSEVA TSUR

sistance," Dighorkar said yesterday. "They had a hard time changing the village culture for life in Bombay and they will now have to get used to another new culture."

A specially designed apartment is awaiting them in Ashkelon and the Absorption Ministry will provide them with a special "absorption basket." They will also be entitled to help from the National Insurance Institute. The five school-age children are to begin their studies next week.

"They will get additional assistance with Hebrew," Dighorkar said. "I will be around to help with their basic needs, as I did in Bombay."

According to official statistics, there are 5,600 Jews left in India today. Most of the Jews are concentrated in Bombay, though a small number live in Calcutta and in the villages.

Since 1948, 26,000 Indian Jews have arrived in Israel. The Malyankar children have some distant relatives amongst them.

Shahal: We won't desert our allies in Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal made it clear yesterday that Israel has no intention of deserting its allies in south Lebanon in the event of peace accords with Lebanon and Syria.

"Residents of the security zone were in the past, as they are today and will be in the future, good neighbors with whom, together, we want to achieve complete security in the current framework and the future one of peace between Israel and Lebanon," said Shahal.

Shahal visited Kiryat Shmona and Metulla yesterday and was later scheduled to meet with South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad. Asked what he would say to the latter, Shahal replied: "We are engaged in an

ongoing war with terrorist organizations, primarily Hizbullah.

"Israel has no intention of giving up or changing its fight against any organization that tries to harm the peace and security of its residents," said Shahal.

He maintained that the security zone had proved itself since its establishment and that Israel would have to be certain that any alternative would ensure the security and safety of all residents.

He stressed that this applied equally to Israel's allies and neighbors in the security zone. "I want to stress that Israel is obligated to ensure their security and safety in the framework of any agreement that might be reached," Shahal added.

Lebanon said enjoying boom in property sales

DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON

PEACE prospects have produced a bonanza for property speculators in south Lebanon, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*.

Even before an agreement between Israel and Lebanon is concluded, demand for land is reported to be strong, particularly along the "road of peace" from Khalde, southwest of Beirut, to Nakoura and the hills overlooking the Mediterranean.

The biggest attraction is in the Iskandarouna area, the UNIFIL headquarters in south Lebanon, where two Maronite Christian businessmen, Albert Abella and Henri Seif, a close friend of Amal leader Nabih Berri, are most active.

The two are believed to have made large-scale purchases of land at rock-bottom prices in 1982 and they are now dividing these tracts into lots and selling them off.

The largest purchaser is Lebanon's millionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who has close links

to the Saudis. He is largely instrumental in the reconstruction of Beirut, but is also a major land developer in the south.

Hariri's southern investments are mainly in his Sunni hometown of Sidon and between Zahran and Tyre.

Sidon is reported to be enjoying a property boom from the \$400 million investments that Hariri has made through his company, Oger Lebanon.

The town has new roads, multi-story buildings and bright lights, while its mosques and Crusader castle have been renovated.

In addition, some land is owned by shadowy companies which are nominally run by Lebanese but are, in fact, Saudi-owned. The Iraqis are competing in the property market, both in south Beirut and east of the capital, via their Hizbullah proxies.

Other investors are Lebanese militias, which made fortunes during the civil war and are now investing the proceeds in property, and Lebanese businessmen.

Sarid: Pullout from Golan will be painful

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

ENVIRONMENT Minister Yossi Sarid said yesterday that if peace is achieved with Syria, the government will have to decide on a "very deep, very painful" withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Speaking to Israel Radio, Sarid said: "If the government of Israel comes to the conclusion that peace can be obtained with Syria, a real peace, and if we reach the conclusion that the normalization is complete, and that the security ar-

rangements in the Golan are strict and tight, then in my opinion the government will have to make a decision on a withdrawal which I would define as both very deep and extremely painful."

The Likud responded yesterday that as a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Sarid was passing on a message to Syria that the Israeli government agrees to a complete withdrawal from the Golan.

Concern in Golan at ministers' statements

DAVID RUDGE

A DELEGATION of secretaries of Golan Heights' kibbutzim yesterday met with President Ezer Weizman to seek his intervention to persuade ministers to moderate their comments over the future of the region.

The delegates, from the United Kibbutz Movement's settlements on the Golan, expressed grave concern over the recent wave of statements by various ministers concerning the possibility of a withdrawal from the Golan in return for full peace with Syria.

"The recent comments that have been made by [Deputy Foreign Minister] Yossi Beilin, [Tourism Minister] Uzi Baram, as well as by [Foreign Minister] Shimon Peres are affecting the communities on the Golan," said Maria van Meter, one of the delegates who met with Weizman at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem.

Reported statements by ministers and officials indicating that Israel was willing to withdraw from the Golan and was not prepared to encourage investment in tourism or development projects had increased the uncertainty and frustration of residents, she said.

"Such comments as we have heard recently are detrimental to the residents as well as being unproductive as far as future negotiations with Syria are concerned. Nothing has been finalized, yet the government's ministers are saying things which give the feeling of finality," said van Meter, a resident of Kibbutz Afik on the southern reaches of the Golan.

"We urged the president to intervene with the government at least as far as trying to ensure that promises made regarding the completion of development projects, including the construction of new homes, should be honored and fulfilled."

She said Weizman had promised nothing other than to pass on their comments, although he had expressed sympathy and understanding for the feelings of the Golan residents.

"He noted on several occasions that he has a nephew who lives on Moshav Givat Yoav, and he pledged to retain close ties with us in the future," said van Meter.

Meanwhile the Golan Settlers Committee urged the government not to force residents of the region

into a state of despair where anger and frustration could boil over.

This follows the announcement by residents of Moshav Neveh Ativ on the slopes of Mount Hermon that they will use all means available, short of weapons or steps that could lead to bloodshed, to retain Israeli sovereignty over the region.

Uri Heitner, spokesman for the committee, maintained that the decision of Neveh Ativ members to conduct an independent fight against any withdrawal did not signify a split among Jewish residents of the region.

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Argentine court drops bombing case against Iran

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Argentina's Supreme Court yesterday dropped accusations against Iranian officials who were named in the anti-Jewish bombing here last month that killed nearly 100 people.

The court decided there was insufficient evidence against the officials and voted to pass the case back to investigating judge Juan Jose Galeano, members of the court told reporters afterwards.

In his report on the bombing,

Galeano named four Iranian officials as wanted in connection with the July 18 bombing that razed Argentina's main Jewish community center.

Under Argentine law, the Supreme Court would take on the case if foreign diplomats or officials were involved.

Iran's official news agency, IRNA, said late Wednesday that Iran wanted Argentina to make up for the accusations, but did not specify how.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flour prices down

As of Sunday, flour prices will drop by 3.75%, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday. The following new prices include Value Added Taxes:

Dark flour, NIS 1.30; white flour, NIS 1.50, and; light white flour or semolina, NIS 1.55.

Nine haredim detained for disturbing dig

Police detained nine haredim yesterday afternoon, after they had entered an Antiquities Authority excavation site near Kibbutz Nahsholim without permission and disrupted work there.

The nine stretched themselves out on the ground at the dig, making it impossible for authority staffers to continue their work. Police arrived and asked the haredim to leave, but they refused. Petah Tikva Police Chief Dep.-Cmdr. Haim Cohen ordered his men to remove the haredim forcefully, and they were taken to the Petah Tikva police station. The nine had to sign a guarantee before being released.

CBS: Marriage rate for Jews falling

The marriage rate per 1,000 people has gone down in the Jewish sector in the past decade, from seven marriages per thousand to 5.9, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. In the Moslem sector, the rate has held steady at about nine marriages per thousand, the CBS said.

According to the CBS, for the past 10 years, the number of Jewish marriages has been holding steady at between 23,000-25,000 couples annually, while the number of Moslem marriages has gone up from 4,800 in 1984 to around 7,000 last year.

A total of 33,000 couples got married last year in Israel, an average of 6.4 marriages per 1,000 people, according to the CBS, based on preliminary figures culled from the Religious Affairs Ministry. Some 25,000 of those couples were Jewish.

Meretz petitions on religious council

Haifa's Meretz faction yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the city council's refusal to appoint two Reform and Conservative Jews to the local religious council. The two candidates were backed by both Meretz and Tsomet.

The petition charges that the city council's only reason for rejecting the two was their religious affiliation, and that the decision therefore violates a High Court ruling from this January, which said Reform and Conservative candidates could not be kept off religious councils.

Ministry approves import of eggs from Gaza

The Agriculture Ministry yesterday approved the entry of eggs from Gaza into Israel, after Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur reached an agreement with the Palestinian Authority on methods to protect the public health.

According to the agreement, the export of eggs to Israel is limited to 30 million this year and an additional 10 million every year afterwards.

Sha'ar Hagai interchange opens Sunday

The dedication ceremony of the Sha'ar Hagai interchange on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway is to take place on Sunday at 2:45 p.m., in the presence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Housing and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and Public Works Department Director-General Zion Salman.

Ya'acov Gabizon dies at 89

Ya'acov Gabizon, the former deputy president of the Tel Aviv District Court, died last night at the age of 89. Gabizon had been a leading figure on the judicial scene since the time of the British Mandate, when he served as deputy custodian of abandoned property. He retired from the Tel Aviv court in 1975.

The unveiling of the tombstone of **MIRIAM (Midge) GADIEL** will take place at Gederot Cemetery on Thursday, September 1, at 5:30p.m. The Family

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Rwandan refugee camps in 'virtual state of war'

GOMA, Zaire (Reuters) - International security agencies said yesterday that security in teeming Rwandan refugee camps around the eastern Zairean town of Goma was now worse than anything they had previously experienced.

"We are in a virtual state of war in the big refugee camps," said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

He cited more than half a dozen incidents in which grenades had been thrown, refugees had been shot and hacked to death in the past two days.

An estimated 800,000 people are living in the Goma camps, the vast bulk of the million-plus Rwandans who fled across the border last month as the Hutu government and its army fled ahead of the advancing Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

Wilkinson told a news conference that experienced aid workers found the degree of danger to themselves and those they were trying to help more serious than anything they had experienced in countries like Afghanistan or Cambodia.

"There is always a degree of danger in places like Cambodia or Afghanistan - but here we have found, and I am speaking of experienced aid workers, that we are going beyond that degree," he added.

Five looters caught stealing food were hanged to death on Tuesday by refugees wielding machetes in the camp of Katala, where 300,000 people are living.

Originally thought to be Zaireans, they were later discovered to be Hutu militiamen who had been stealing from their own people.

Castro: Cubans free to leave

ED McCULLOUGH
HAVANA

FIDEL Castro has thrown open Cuba's doors and in effect told his countrymen they are free to leave.

In a 2 1/2-hour speech broadcast nationwide Wednesday night, Castro said explicitly for the first time that Cuban authorities would not interfere with people trying to flee the troubled island.

"We told our border guards to make their operations more flexible in respect to illegal exits," he said.

He also said Americans could bring boats to Cuba to pick up family members and even buy fuel in this energy-short nation. However, the US government has banned its citizens from taking their boats to Cuba.

Castro lashed out at the United States for its policy of isolating Cuba and blamed Washington for the first large-scale refugee exodus since he let 125,000 people flee in the Mariel boatlift of 1980.

The refugee flow intensified last week after Cuban authorities appeared to be letting people leave unfettered. Most refugees cite hunger and unemployment as the reasons they leave.

Castro urged the Clinton administration to talk directly with Havana to resolve the refugee crisis.

"Solutions that are real, realistic and just would benefit the United States as well as us," Castro said. He linked talks with other issues, including ending the United States' 30-year economic blockade.

US officials rejected that idea yesterday, saying Cuba's problems were of its own making.

"Castro is trying to make the US part of the problem and part of the solution," Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff said in an interview on CBS. "The problem lies in Cuba. It's a result of direct mismanagement over the last 35 years, his reluctance to reform."

Responding to its biggest crisis with Havana since the Mariel boatlift, the United States halted automatic asylum for Cubans on Friday. Since then, the US Coast Guard has plucked nearly 10,000 people from rickety boats and rafts and taken them to Guantanamo Bay, the US navy base in southeastern Cuba.

Defense Secretary William Perry said Wednesday that a rush was on to expand detention camps at Guantanamo to house 40,000 refugees, and an administration official said contingency plans were being made to hold up to 65,000. The base, which has a capacity of 23,000, already houses 14,000 Haitian refugees.

Parisians mark 50th anniversary of liberation day

PARIS (AP) - The bells of Notre Dame Cathedral pealed across the capital yesterday as Parisians and tourists joined celebrations heavy with music, dance and symbolism marking the day 50 years ago when the city was liberated from Nazi occupation.

An interfaith service in memory of Resistance fighters and soldiers was conducted at the church, a Paris symbol for 800 years where Gen. Charles de Gaulle won the freed city's admission by standing bravely as snipers' bullets buzzed around him.

"Here, Gen. de Gaulle came to find France's heart in hiding," said Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger told religious and government leaders.

"Here, we thank all who gave their strength and lives, their existence so that our country could receive peace, justice and liberty."

Parisians braced for traffic jams as avenues were blocked off for a parade by cyclists and old military vehicles along the route taken by French troops led by Gen. Jacques Leclerc August 25, 1944.

Flags of France and World War II allies the United States, Britain and Canada graced doorways, official buildings and hotels. City buses flew tricolors. Posters showed Parisians of 50 years ago manning barricades. Newspapers headlined de Gaulle's declaration 50 years ago: "Paris libre!"

At a photo exhibit of the liberation at City Hall, Dominique Dussert, 42, said that his "feeling of being French is coming out even more today. It's a kind of patriotism, even though it's less than what existed 50 years ago."

However, his daughter, Caroline, 15, seemed less impressed.

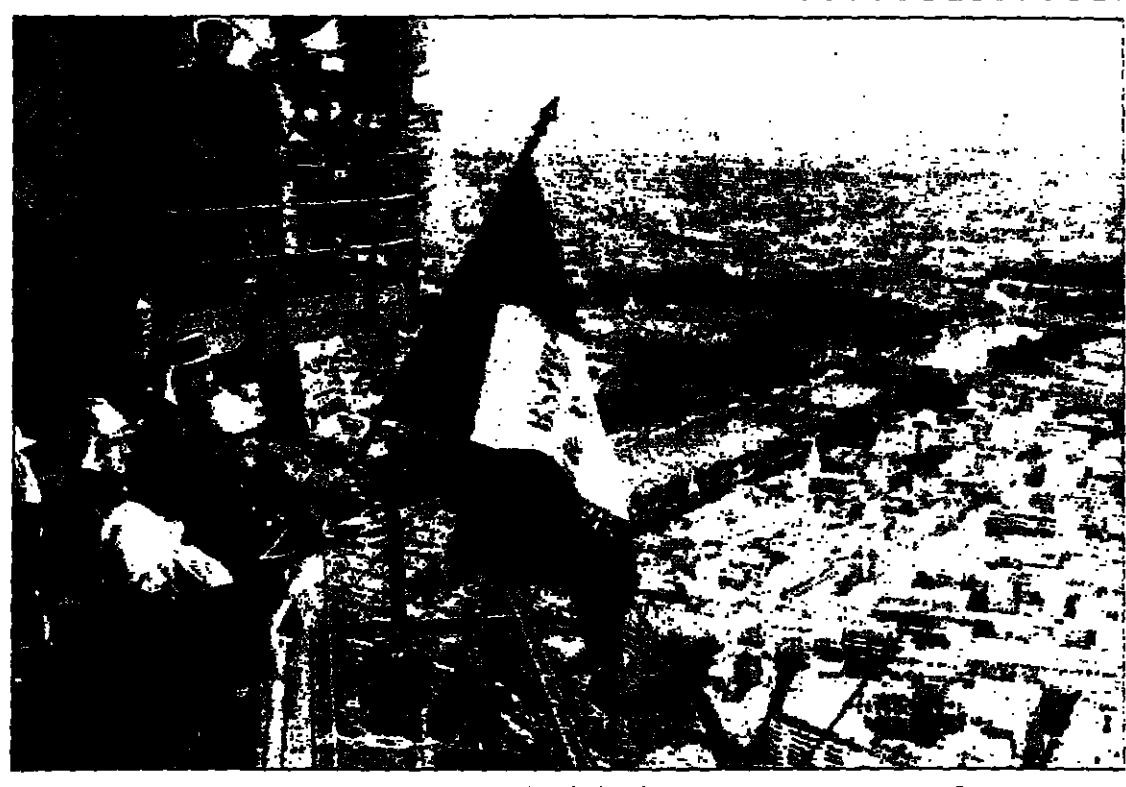
"I don't know, it all seems so far away from me," Caroline said. "I just came to see out of curiosity."

The celebrations crown a summer that began in June with the 50th anniversary of D-Day. For France, the liberation of Paris is just as important. It determined who would rule - de Gaulle or the Communists - and whether they would inherit one of the world's jewels or a heap of rubble.

On August 19, 1944, the impatient Resistance, dominated by Communists, opened the insurrection as Allied troops sweeping out of Normandy entered the capital. But US Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the supreme allied commander, planned to bypass Paris, fearing that feeding its population would slow his armies.

De Gaulle, who had led the Free French from exile since 1940 in opposition to the collaborationist Vichy regime, saw the insurrection as a Communist bid to take control and was determined to impose his own authority.

Meanwhile, the German commander, Gen. Dietrich von Choltitz, had received orders from Hitler to blow Paris apart and defend its ruins to the last man.



A group of French firemen hoist a flag from the Eiffel Tower, in a ceremony yesterday re-enacting the actual event that took place 50 years ago, when firemen scaled the monument to take down the Nazi swastika flag and unfurl the French tricolors. (Reuters)

Japan's 'Schindler' may have saved more than originally thought

TOKYO (Reuters) - An American historian has discovered a Japanese government document listing Polish Jews saved from the Holocaust by a Japanese diplomat, which reveals that the man dubbed "Japan's Schindler" saved far more people than previously thought.

Professor Hillel Levine of Boston University said in an interview on Wednesday that he found the 31-page document after a month-long hunt at the Japanese Foreign Ministry archives.

It lists 1,944 Jews granted visas in 1940 at the Japanese consulate in Lithuania's former capital Kaunas.

"The list is by no means complete and I must corroborate it with my research," said Levine, who has been researching the case for several years. "But this is the first documentary proof of the humanitarian acts of Chiune Sugihara."

Sugihara, the acting Japanese consul in Lithuania, risked his career and life by issuing visas to stranded Jews fleeing the Nazi onslaught.

His story was long suppressed in post-World War II Japan. It only became widely known here after Lithuania recovered its independence from Moscow in 1991 and named a street after him in the current capital Vilnius.

In the summer of 1940, Polish Jews who had fled the German invasion of Poland a year earlier were stranded in neighboring Lithuania. No Western country, not even the United States, would grant visas and so the Jews were unable to leave on the Trans-Siberian railway, their only escape route.

But Sugihara, the acting Japanese consul in Lithuania, stamped transit visas on thousands of their passports so they could make good their escape, despite explicit orders from Tokyo not to issue such visas.

At the time Japan was aligned, but not yet allied, with Germany through the 1935 Anti-Comintern Pact. As official policy it refused to issue visas to war refugees. The pact evolved into the 1941 tripartite Axis alliance, with Italy.

According to Israeli estimates, about 6,000 Polish Jews arrived in

Japan from Lithuania in this way. Survivors said in an interview in 1992 that they were treated fairly in Japan although officials knew their visas were issued illegally.

"In our conversations [with Sugihara], not once did he mention his country had treaty or other obligations to ban entry of our people," Zerah Warhaftig, a leader of the group, told Reuters in Tokyo in 1992. "Nor that he was under orders from Tokyo. His was a very courageous act."

Warhaftig, who later served as Israel's minister of Religious Affairs between 1962 and 1974, was back in Japan at the time to dedicate a park to Sugihara.

The refugees all went on to seek asylum in the US in 1941, which by then had relaxed rules on Jewish refugees, or in other countries ready to accept them.

Among them were the entire staff of the Mir yeshiva, the only Polish-Jewish yeshiva to survive the Holocaust. In 1991, the institute, now in Brooklyn, New York, posthumously gave a humanitarian award to Sugihara.

The newly found document showed that Sugihara acted in a cool, organized manner and not out of impulse, Levine said.

The names of those granted visas during July are few and far between. But as the Soviet Union stepped up its pressure to annex Lithuania, Sugihara increased the number to about 100 a day. Lithuania lost its independence in late August 1940, soon after Sugihara stamped the last of the visas.

Levine said the Japanese risked his own life. "His next posting was to Berlin and he knew very well that the Germans had little respect for diplomatic immunity. He and his family could have disappeared at the hands of the Nazis, like so many others who tried to protect Jews."

"The comparison is unfortunate but Sugihara's act was not motivated by greed or opportunism like [Oskar] Schindler," Levine said. "It was an act of the highest humanitarian order."

After Lithuania, Sugihara served in various Japanese embassies in East Europe before returning to Tokyo in 1945 at the end of the war. He was promptly fired. He died in 1986.

Over 100 rescued from blazing ships off English coast

RAMSGATE, England (Reuters) - Air Force and coast guard rescuers said they launched two separate operations yesterday when fires broke out aboard a cross-channel ferry and a Lithuanian fish factory ship near two British ports.

More than 100 people were taken off the blazing Sally Star when its engine room caught fire on an overnight trip from Dunkirk, France, to Ramsgate in southeastern England.

Lifboats took 30 crew members off a burning Lithuanian-registered fish factory ship near Lerwick in the Shetland Islands.

Firefighters put out the blaze on the Sally Star, which had been kept from drifting in a busy sea lane by tugboats. "The fire is now out and the ship is now going back to Dunkirk for an investigation," a spokeswoman for the Sally Star line said.

She said one crew member slightly injured his back while helping to put out the fire, but no one else had been hurt.

A helicopter could be seen hovering over the ferry as crew and freight drivers, chatting cheerfully and wearing bright orange life jackets, arrived at Ramsgate port aboard lifboats.

The spokeswoman said the ferry normally carried cars and passengers, but on this trip had been carrying freight and trucks. She said 104 crew and 17 freight drivers had been aboard.

US poll shows most women prefer being virgin brides

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Two out of three women would want to be a virgin if they were getting married today and half believe neither men nor women should have any sexual experience before wedlock, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The survey, conducted for Redbook magazine, found that 64 percent of the 500 women questioned said they would want to be a virgin while 31 percent said they would rather not.

But it found that 53 percent believe having sex with the person you are going to marry is the same thing as being a virgin, while 42 percent disagreed.

If a woman does not get married, respondents said on average that a woman should experience sex by the age of 23, while 27 percent said the woman should remain a virgin all her life.

Of those surveyed, 42 percent said they were virgins when they first married while 41 percent were not. The other 17 percent of responses were not included.

Brando: I had affair with Marilyn Monroe

NEW YORK - In his new book, Marlon Brando reveals he had an affair with Marilyn Monroe while they were students at the Actors Studio, the legendary acting school in New York City.

Short excerpts and photographs from Brando's book, *Brando: Songs My Mother Taught Me*, which will be released September 7, are to be published in Sunday's issue of *Parade* magazine.

"We had an affair and saw each other intermittently for years," Brando wrote in the book written with Robert Lindzey.

"Once she called and invited me to come over for dinner. I already had plans but promised to call the follow-

ing week. She said fine. Two or three days later, she was dead," Brando said.

Brando, now 70, said, "I'm pretty good with people's moods, and with Marilyn I didn't sense any depression or clue of impending self-destruction during her call."

According to the magazine excerpt, Brando, who became an early member of the famous Actors Studio during the late 1940s, admitted he joined the troupe "to meet girls." He met Marilyn Monroe there.

"I have always been lucky with women. There have been many in my life, though I hardly ever spent more than a couple of minutes with any of them. I've had far too many affairs to think of myself as a normal, rational man," Brando wrote in his book.

Brando wrote that his actress mother, Dorothy, and father, Marlon Sr., were both alcoholics. His relationship with them was troubled.

"My father was a salesman who spent most of his time on the road. It was an era when a traveling salesman shipped \$5 to a bellboy, who would return with a pint of whiskey and a hooker. Then the house detective got \$1 so the woman could stay in his room. My pop was such a man. He was an alcoholic who tortured me emotionally and made my mother's life miserable," Brando wrote.

Newsday

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Pilot's air crash killing 44 was likely a suicide

RABAT (AP) - The co-pilot screamed "Help, help! The captain is dead!" but the rest of the terrified crew was lost on the cockpit recorder of the Royal Air Maroc plane as it streaked toward the ground.

Investigators yesterday issued their grim conclusion of what the co-pilot meant: Pilot Younes Khayat was committing suicide by deliberately crashing the plane. His death wish also killed the other 43 people aboard Sunday.

Sentimental reasons could have spurred the suicide, the French news agency reported.

Examination of the plane's sound and data recorders showed that Khayat "disconnected the automatic pilot and directed the aircraft toward the ground," said a statement from the commission investigating the crash.

The accident "is due to the deliberate will of the pilot who wished to end his life," it said. The last words of co-pilot Sofia Figuig were reported by French officials who helped examine the recorders.

The ATR-42 turboprop was flying from the southern city of Agadir to Casablanca when it crashed 55 kilometers north of Agadir about 10 minutes after takeoff.

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... "The work is so new that many do not take it seriously," she said.

... "The work is so new that many do not take it seriously," she said.

A little humility, please

ABBA EBAN

OPponents of the peace process are versatile in their argumentation.

Some of them are gripped by a sudden burst of enthusiasm for democratic ideals. "How come the new rulers of Gaza and Jericho have not held elections? Why are their administrations so inefficient? How dare they censor and close newspapers?"

A favorite conclusion of these critics is that if a Palestine state emerges out of the peace process it is not likely to be a Jeffersonian democracy and will therefore be a source of peril to Israeli security. This is propaganda in the sense of the definition that I once gave to that term: "the art of persuading others of what you cannot possibly believe yourself."

The criticism of the PLO performance is well founded but it comes ill from those who have extolled the military administration and who now lament its inevitable demise.

The Israeli rulers of Gaza and Jericho did not exactly "groom" the Palestinian leaders for higher office. We denied them the dignity of their name and flag, locked them up in their thousands, closed their schools for months on end, and banished them in disgrace to distant places. We then changed our tune from "Never, never PLO" to "only, only, only PLO." Even those of us who regard the change as inevitable should not expect it to produce distinguished exponents of precision and integrity overnight.

Our own nation recalls the sad events of 1948 when the British mandatory government abandoned

its trust in a turmoil of violence and suppression. But in my own verbal assault upon it in May 1948 I had to declare that "the Jewish State already exists. Here it is with its elected leaders, its recognized emissaries, its schools, universities, trade

The peace process may not make the Arabs democratic, but it has redeemed Israeli democracy

unions, police forces. All it lacks is the international status which you [UK] should confer..."

Even an anti-Zionist administration in May 1948 did not seek to dismantle the work of our hands or to deface our banner. The Palestinian leaders today do not deserve absolution from the conflict that they provoked, but they are entitled to ask for and receive a little time.

NOR IS it true that peace and stability in a new Middle East depend on a swift democratic dawn.

Few Israelis regard Egypt and Jordan as impossible neighbors and our military leaders are not making urgent plans for resisting invasions

to be launched by President Mu-barak and King Hussein, neither of whom claims that their journey to democracy has been accomplished. In the years of our diplomatic solitude, our nation did not fail to maintain warm relationships with regimes which had disagreeable habits, typified by Idi Amin, Mobuto, some Latin American leaders before the present democratic wave - and with South Africa, whose social philosophies were distant from our own.

We adhered to the doctrine that I still defend - that the international system must accommodate itself to a great diversity of social and ideological doctrines and that Israel's attitude to other states must be strongly influenced by their attitude to us.

Finally, in the spirit of the holiday season, I invoke the theme of humility. We cannot guarantee that the peace process will ensure democracy for Arab states, but we can assert that it has redeemed Israel's democratic identity.

It was not easy to define Israel as "a bastion of democracy" while we were ruling a huge Palestinian population without offering them equal citizenship or the right to separate into their own jurisdiction. I refused to use that term in those days.

But the establishment of Palestinian self-government with an open door to more advanced forms of independence restores us to the company to which we rightly belong.

The writer is a former foreign minister.



Dance of death on the roads

ELIHU RICHTER

LAST November, Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar tried an "experiment." He raised the speed limit on part of two highways to 100 kph. Since then, the body count on interurban roads has jumped by more than 50 over last year's toll.

An emergency internal Health Ministry memo is currently sitting on the desk of Minister Ephraim Sneh. It urges him to advise the transport minister to stop the experiment before more people get killed.

The memo sums up the case for a cause-and-effect relationship between the new speed limit - on part of the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway and part of the Tel Aviv-Asdod highway - and the sharp rise in deaths on all interurban roads since last November.

Interurban speeds rose by 10 percent nationwide. The percentage of those injured who died, either at the scene of an accident or later, jumped by 40 percent: from 2.2 to 3.1 percent. The interurban death toll rose 27 percent to 225, compared to 126, 192 and 177 during the same period in the last three years. The statistical likelihood that these sharp jumps are the result of chance is less than one per 1,000.

What happened in Israel happened everywhere else in the world where the speed limit was raised. Speeds went up not only on the roads designated, but on other roads as well.

Once people are permitted to drive faster on one stretch, they go on driving faster. They become hooked. And they kill people. Sometimes they kill themselves.

Kessar's experiment has led to crash impacts that are much more severe everywhere, not just on the two roads designated high speed.

Autopsy data from the UK indicates that higher speed impacts mean more lethal head and neck injuries. Our Abu Kabir pathologists are probably seeing more head injuries.

Yet, despite the carnage, Omri Schneller, director of the Road Safety Authority, has boasted that 100 kph has actually improved matters.

Yes, he admits, there are more dead. But there are fewer "accidents," and the number of deaths

on the high-speed sections of the two designated highways has remained "low," i.e. less than 10. Schneller has avoided responding to the data on the jump in speeds and fatality rates in the November-June period resulting from the spillover effect on all other roads. The transport minister has pub-

licly defended 100 kph, saying it was recommended by an expert committee headed by Prof. Moshe Livneh of the Technion. That committee pushed for 110 kph, predicting that, at worst, there would be an increase of "only" two deaths. Kessar rejected the recommendation.

If 100 kph equals administrative murder, then 110 kph - still in the works - will be administrative massacre. Highway no. 6 aims for 130 kph.

If 100 kph equals administrative murder, 110 kph, still in the works, would be administrative massacre

AT A Hebrew University-Hadassah workshop on 100 kph, Dr. Paul Slater, chief epidemiologist of the Health Ministry, warned that those who remain silent on 100 kph's effects in Israel could, like the French officials who covered up the story on HIV contamination of blood-bank supplies, be subject to criminal prosecution.

What led Slater, an authority on injury epidemiology as well as AIDS, to express himself so strongly?

First, Livneh and his colleagues, all except one, ignored the spillover effect onto all other interurban roads when they carried out their risk assessments.

Second, they dismissed the fact that the death toll on higher-speed Israeli roads is already three- to six-fold higher than on equivalent European roads.

Third, they failed to cite the fact that truck speeds are limited to 80 kph - and enforced - in European

countries which have raised travel speeds for private vehicles.

Fourth, as Jerusalem Post reporter Carl Schrag reported last November, the committee suppressed the fact that the IDF (young drivers, heavy vehicles, long journeys, increasing death tolls from weekend nighttime

leaves) opposed raising the speed limit to 100 kph.

This year's toll on the roads will probably be between 550 and 600, a peak figure since 1977.

What can concerned Israelis do? They can demand that Messrs. Schneller and Kessar repeal 100 kph before the holiday season - or get fired if they don't. They can demand that the academic members of the Livneh committee be sacked. Making scientists individually answerable for endorsing administrative murder may help bring about repeal, before the peak season of high-speed holiday carnage.

The news isn't reassuring. Kessar has said he will reexamine the 100 kph issue. But - and here's the catch - the decision will be based on the advice of Livneh's committee.

Yet there is a way to bring road deaths down to under 200 by the year 2000. It can be done if the authorities:

• Set up 60-80 roadside detectors throughout the country to monitor

speed and headway interval (distance between cars) and photograph the license plates of offending vehicles (this would save 80-140 lives annually);

• Restore the 90 kph speed limit on all roads (40-60 lives saved);

• Eliminate compulsory driver education in high school, which often leads to licenses at an earlier age; conduct random sobriety checks at night; issue restricted licenses to youngsters and restore teenage drivers' nighttime curfew; encourage women truck drivers instead of men (these measures will save 20-30 lives);

• Make helmets mandatory for bicycle riders (10-15 lives saved);

• Institute tougher licensing for motorcycle riders;

• Make airbags mandatory in new cars (10-15 lives saved);

• Implement tougher vehicle safety and tire standards (30-50 lives saved);

• Demand that trucks have "governors" installed limiting their maximum speed, as well as tachographs, which record how fast they've traveled; that trucks be required to have lights along their sides; that 80 kph be the speed limit, and double trailers be banned (40-50 lives saved);

• Ban CJ-5 jeeps, which are unstable (3-5 lives saved);

• Pad concrete road dividers with straw cushions (10-20 lives saved);

• Help pedestrians by putting down road bumps, using bigger letters on road signs, installing more mid-road islands and encouraging the use of light-reflective clothing (50 lives saved);

• Insist on improved first aid and emergency care (20 lives saved).

The writer is head of occupational and environmental medicine at the Hebrew University Medical School.

Words, and more words

ARIEL SHARON

NO reasonable person can object to a peace agreement. But Israel's accord with Arafat is not a peace agreement. It is a bad and dangerous pact for which we shall have to pay a heavy price.

Yet even this agreement is not being kept by Arafat.

• The Palestinian Covenant calling for the liquidation of Israel and the Jewish people has not been annulled, nor will it be. All Arafat is doing on this issue is mocking the government.

• Arafat has not authorized his armed forces to fight the terrorists of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other organizations. On the contrary, according to security sources, he is interested in increasing terrorism in areas not under his control, particularly Jerusalem.

Even in the zones Israel has granted him, terrorist activity goes on. Over 60 Jews have been murdered since the agreement was signed. Only the alertness of soldiers and civilians has prevented many more victims.

• Fatah itself, Arafat's own faction, has not abandoned terrorism. It recently cold-bloodedly killed 11 people who helped us. This was done at Arafat's behest, on the direct orders of Yibril Rajoub, his right-hand man in Jericho, whose title is "head of the Palestinian security services in the West Bank."

If memory serves, this is one sphere in which we have not transferred authority to the PLO in the framework of "early empowerment."

Rajoub continues to move freely everywhere. He is a hosted by senior Israeli security officials, dining with them in fancy restaurants (who pays the bills?). He also finds time to appear before Israeli Arabs and deliver fiery speeches of incitement, even spending his nights in

Arafat and Nabil vs. an imbecile - the government

Jerusalem.

• Fatah, on Arafat's instructions, kidnaps men in Judea and Samaria, areas still presumably under our control, and transports them to Jericho for interrogation and brutal torture. Even in our capital, Jerusalem, under the eyes of the Israeli authorities, Fatah men seized two Arabs suspected of assisting Israel and moved them to Jericho. On the way, they managed to pass through all checkpoints, to whose efficacy such incidents are testimony.

There has been much talk of "safe passage" for Palestinians between Gaza and Jericho; but apparently the only true safe passage is the one terrorists enjoy on their way to the safe havens of Jericho and Gaza after committing murder.

Our leftist circles, quick to decry any real or imagined wrong against Arabs, are silent. They've been struck dumb. Contemptuous of anyone who has helped us and saved lives, they join the chorus of those who call them "collaborators."

Where are the demonstrations and the protest banners? Where are slogans like "Arafat is a murderer" or "Yibril Rajoub is a murderer"? It's becoming difficult to determine who the real collaborators are, and whom they are collaborating with.

Such developments render pronouncements by senior military men - officers of an army that has saved the whole region - pathetic indeed.

Brave declarations like "Israel will not tolerate such violations of the Cairo agreements," or "Israel will not reconcile itself to this," or "Israel will hunt down to the last..." (I wonder what has happened to "We shall cut off the hand that did it..."). Words, words with nothing to back them. By now the Palestinians must know that opposite Arafat and Nabil there stands an imbecile.

And this imbecile, the government of Israel, is so intent on returning to business as usual that it is giving away even more authority in more of Judea and Samaria, instead of pausing and demanding - at least - the immediate fulfillment of every clause and detail of this agreement.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

Pitfall of legal correctness

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

POLITICAL correctness has a twin. Let us call it legal correctness.

It is a bundle of concepts in matters of law that are accepted as the commonsense norms of right-thinking elite opinion makers, or what some of our judges used to call the enlightened portion of the public.

Legal correctness is particularly dangerous, because legal concepts are often regarded as the exclusive property of a professional guild, not subject to the scrutiny of those unskilled in the craft.

Legal correctness proclaims that a legal revolution has occurred in Israel with the enactment of the new human rights Basic Laws. The nub of this revolution is the authority of the judiciary to determine the validity of laws of the Knesset. Hence, the guardians and pioneers of the revolutionary faith are the judges.

Each one of these propositions is subject to serious doubt or qualification.

Justice Aharon Barak proclaimed the major premises of legal correctness in an address at Haifa University on May 18, 1992. The wording is somewhat unusual, considering the substance: "Not everyone knows this," declared Barak, "but recently a revolution occurred in Israel. It was a constitutional revolution, in which the Knesset enacted two Basic Laws."

If it is not too naive to ask, could a revolution, particularly a constitutional revolution, occur in Israel without everyone knowing? It would be more accurate to describe it as a constitutional coup.

If so, the political reaction in the religious camp is almost routine. Ever since Israel's independence, it has prevented the adoption of a written constitution with judicial power to invalidate Knesset legislation. It should be obvious that, without a political deal guarantee-

ing the status of religion, the religious camp will not agree to a legal deal that could jeopardize the status quo.

Constitutional arrangements cannot ignore political realities. Significantly, since the "revolution," the major battleground in matters of fundamental freedoms appears to have shifted away from the courts and into Knesset committee

Justices jump in where angels fear to tread

rooms and political party coalition negotiations. The current dispute over Rabin's coalition deal with Shas is only the latest example.

THE STRESS that legal correctness places on the power of the court to invalidate legislation is also misleading.

The error is in the formalistic belief that this is a yes-or-no situation: either the power exists, or it doesn't. In fact, our entire constitutional history to date contradicts this proposition. Indeed, Barak declares that "the revolution is not one of content so much as of force."

Even in the US, the great bulk of constitutional adjudication, as in Israel, deals with the review of administrative action and the interpretation of statutes. In 1803, for the first time, the court invalidated a law of the Congress. That law dealt with the powers of the court itself, and the incident passed without serious consequences.

Only in 1854, more than half a century later, did the court once again strike down a congressional enactment. This was the famous Dred Scott decision, involving the status quo in the matter of slavery. Historians regard it as one of the causes of the Civil War. Comparison with the problem of religion in Israel is very much in order.

The final proposition of legal correctness - that the judges are the pioneers of the legal revolution - appears to have led to enthusiastic recourse to the new Basic Laws, even when the court could have gotten along without them.

If we are intent on going American, then we should adopt the policy norms formulated by Justice Brandeis 60 years ago: First of all, that the court will not "anticipate a question of constitutional law in advance of the necessity of deciding it." Secondly, that "the court will not pass upon a constitutional question... if there is also present some other ground upon which the case may be disposed of."

If the judges who ruled on the import of non-kosher meat had observed these norms, we might have saved ourselves an unnecessary coalition crisis.

The spirit of legal correctness is summed up - unintentionally, to be sure - in Barak's misquotation of US Chief Justice Marshall's famous dictum: "It is a constitution we are expounding." In Barak's monumental treatise, *Judicial Discretion*, published in Hebrew in 1987, this is misquoted in English as "It is a constitution we are expounding."

I am not suggesting that this substitution of "expounding" for "expounding" is anything other than a proofreader's error; but as an accident, it is certainly a most magnificently contrived accident.

The writer is a political and legal commentator.

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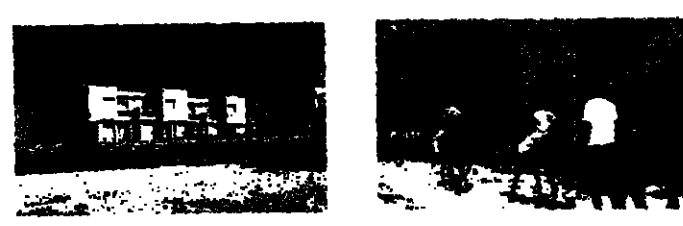
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Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

A 8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1994

Koor Industries suffers 39% fall in net profits

KOOR Industries yesterday reported a 39% drop in net profits for the second quarter of 1994, to NIS 55.79m, compared with NIS 91.29m in the corresponding period last year.

Net income in the first half of the year fell to NIS 233.1m., from NIS 305m. during the same period of 1993. Net return on equity reached 15.9% on an annual basis.

Benny Gao, the company's chief executive officer, blamed the decline mainly on the lower profitability of Tadiran, Koor's largest subsidiary.

The lower profits were also due to reduced capital gains and losses by Merhav, resulting from a redeployment which included massive investments in equipment and the compa-

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ny's establishment of a provision to cover future reductions in the number of employees. There were also losses resulting from the decrease in prices of marketable securities. Koor's share in these losses during the first half of 1994 totaled approximately NIS 24 million.

Sales in the second quarter of the year increased to NIS 2.14m. from NIS 1.73m. in the second quarter of 1993. The rise was mainly due to the inclusion, for the first time, of Granit sales - which amounted to NIS 517m. - in the framework of Koor's consolidated financial statements.

In the reported period, exports increased to \$219 million, from \$173m. in the second quarter of 1993. Operating income fell 26.2% in the second quarter, to NIS 149m., from NIS 188m. in the second quarter of 1993.

Net financing expenses for the second quarter of 1994 increased to NIS 52.7m., compared with NIS 41.01m. in the second quarter last year. In the first six months of the year, financing expenses rose to NIS 74.2m. compared with NIS 62.7m. in the same period last year. Management said the financing expenses include a loss of NIS 45m., caused as a result of the drop in share prices on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

RISING exports and retail trade fueled economic activity in the past three months, as inflation flared up to 17 percent and unemployment and tourism receipts fell, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports, excluding diamonds, jumped 18.3% during May through July.

Industrial exports, which make up about a third of industrial production, rose 24%, after increasing 11% in the previous two months.

By contrast, merchandise imports fell 9.6%, after sharp rises early this year.

Consumer imports dropped 19.2%, after shooting up by 41.6% in March and April.

However, durable goods imports, including cars, furniture and major

Surge in exports, retail trade fuels economic activity in last quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

appliances, rose 9%.

Industrial machinery and equipment imports continued falling, registering a 17.3% drop in the past three months.

By contrast, industrial input imports - excluding fuel - grew a moderate 3.3%, after falling 1.8%.

Cement sales - a good indicator of construction activity - soared 410.5% during May and June, following a consistent drop since the beginning of the year.

During the second quarter of the year, building starts jumped 21% after shrinking by 9% in the previous quarter.

Over half of the increase was at-

tributed to residential construction, 88% of which was private.

By contrast, non-residential building starts fell 23% in the second quarter.

Overall, construction activity dropped in the second quarter as a result of the closure of the territories which significantly reduced the number of construction workers.

The bureau expects that the main increase in building starts will take place in the future.

Industrial production recovered during May and June, rising 11% after dropping 4% in the previous two months.

The improvement in production

was centered in light industry and the food sector.

Tourism, as measured by the number of tourist arrivals by air, continued dropping by 15.8%, after falling 21% in the previous two months.

Hotel stays dropped even more sharply by 44.9%, reflecting the impact of the Hebron massacre.

Retail trade increased 11.4% compared with a moderate rise of 3% in the previous two months.

Food sales, which make up a significant portion of retail trade, increased only 3%, after rising 18%.

Unemployment fell to 7.8% in the second quarter of the year compared with 8.2% in the previous quarter.

The currency basket rose 18% between May and July, while the dollar gained a more moderate 5%.

Electric Corp. reports jump in net earnings

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Electric Corporation yesterday reported a 136% rise in net profits for the first half of 1994 compared with the corresponding period last year.

The IEC posted a net profit of NIS 132 million for the first six months of the year, up from NIS 56m. during the first half of 1993.

In the second quarter the company reported a net profit of NIS 8m., compared with a net loss of NIS 54m. in the same quarter last year.

In the reported period, total revenues fell to NIS 2.4 billion, compared with NIS 2.45b. in

the first six months of 1993.

IEC chairman Adi Amos said the company's financial forecasts for the third quarter of the year were good in light of the rise in domestic electricity consumption.

In other news, the company announced the board of directors had confirmed the appointment of former police inspector-general Rafi Peled as managing director of the company.

The Civil Service Commission's appointment

panel, headed by retired judge Mordechai Bender, asked the government to approve Peled's appointment in accordance with amendment eight to the Government Companies Law.

This amendment permits the appointment of someone who lacks the academic qualifications required for a particular managerial post if they have managerial work experience. Peled does not have any formal business education.

The IEC board also decided to commence negotiations with the Canadian Babcock and Wilcox company to supply boilers for a new power station to be constructed in Ashkelon.

Higher rates have not dampened borrowing

JOSE ROSENFELD

PUBLIC borrowing of unlinked shekel loans rose 2.8 percent last month, indicating that despite the Bank of Israel's repeated interest rate hikes inflationary tendencies are on the rise.

The central bank announced yesterday that unlinked shekel loans increased to NIS 51.9b. in July from NIS 50.57b. in the previous month.

Although the Bank of Israel has pushed up interest rates seven times since last November, the public still considers the higher rates reasonable based on its expectations for higher inflation, and has yet to moderate its borrowing.

Commercial banks' interest rates rose an average of half a percentage point in July, reflecting the Bank of Israel's rate hike by the same amount at the end of June.

The interest commercial banks charged on overdrafts increased to an average annual rate of 19.1% from 18.42% in June.

Average interest on credit to the public rose to 16.75% from 16.19%.

Fixed-term interest rates on credit increased to 15.02% from 14.56%.

Interest on deposits rose to 9.88% from 9.42% in June. Short-term deposits went up to 11.59% from 11.09%. Similarly, fixed-term deposits rose to 11.02% from 10.49%.

The banks' profit margin from transactions with the public increased to 6.87% from 6.77%. Similarly, their financial margin for all transactions increased slightly to 4.99% from 4.98%.

Rate of expansion drops

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bank of Israel's "S", or state of the economy indicator, rose only 0.2 percent in July, reflecting a significant drop in the rate of economic expansion.

During the first quarter of the year, the index jumped 3.9% compared with only 1.57% in the following four months, the central bank's research department reported yesterday.

The Bank of Israel also revised upward May's index to 0.5% from 0.2%, and June's index to 0.6% from 0.5%.

Since the beginning of the year, the index has increased by 5.52%, compared with 2.6% during the same period last year.

However, the index rose less during the first seven months of this year than in the previous seven months, when it increased by 6.4%.

Retail sales, a good consumption indicator, fell 1.6% in July, following large increases in previous months.

Imports also dropped by 1.8%, after falling by 6.4% in June.

The number of jobs in the business sector rose 0.6% in June following a similar rise in May.

Industrial production remained flat in June.

Both industrial production and job figures for last month will only be available next month, as there is a two-month reporting lag.

8 groups plan to bid for Shikun Ufituah

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

EIGHT groups of investors have reportedly informed the Government Companies Authority of plans to bid for the purchase of Shikun Ufituah.

Yesterday was the last date parties had to inform the Government Companies Authority of their intentions to participate in the tender. Details of the exact number of applicants will be announced next week, the Treasury said.

The government intends to sell either a package representing 52% to 74% of Shikun Ufituah shares, or its entire 100% interest.

Among the companies reportedly participating in the tender is a consortium made up of Azorim, in partnership with Israel Corp. and the Renaissance Fund. Azorim wants to purchase a 50% stake while Israel Corp. and Renaissance would each purchase 25% of the company. Other consortiums include a group made up of Africa Israel, businessman Eliezer Fishman, Dankner Investments and Dimr.

Businessman Gad Ze'evi, through Mirage, a publicly-traded company that he controls, plans to bid in partnership with contractor Uri Dori and United Mizrahi Bank's investment company.

Contractor Mordechai Yona has set up a consortium with a company from Thailand, and an American firm reportedly wants to buy Shikun Ufituah in partnership with Engel construction company and Etz Lavod.

The Israel Phoenix company is also bidding.

Second quarter net profits plunge at Ma'ariv Holdings

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MA'ARIV Holdings second quarter net profits have fallen 62 percent to NIS 1.5 million from NIS 4m. in the same period in 1993.

Revenues slipped to NIS 67.1m. from NIS 68.7m. in the reported period last year. Earnings per share were NIS 0.09, compared with NIS 0.27 in the second quarter of 1993.

The company's principal activities are publishing through the Ma'ariv group, electronic communications through Matav Cable Communications, and large-scale commercial printing through the Levin Epstein Press.

Publishing showed quarterly reve-

nues of NIS 24.8m. compared with NIS 23.8m. TV advertising showed revenues of NIS 39.2m. compared with NIS 41.3m., and printing revenues fell to NIS 3m. from NIS 3.6m. in the previous year.

Zim Israel Navigation Company ended the first half of 1994 with a net profit of \$17 million, compared with \$9.1m. during the first six months of last year.

The company said there was a rise in the volume of containerized cargo carried in all of the trade areas in the reported period. In the first half of 1994, operating profit rose to \$43.8m. from \$39.1m.

Israel General Bank's net earnings fall 66%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL General Bank, controlled by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, yesterday reported a 66 percent drop in net earnings compared with the same period last year.

The bank ended the second quarter of the year with a net profit of NIS 1.66m. compared with a net

profit of NIS 4.85m. in the corresponding period in 1993. In the six-month period, General Bank's earnings fell to NIS 6.69m. from NIS 9.85m. in the corresponding period last year, a decrease of 32%.

Net return on shareholders' equity fell to 8.1% on an annual basis compared with 13.9% the corresponding period last year and 14.9% in all of 1993.

General Bank said the results reflect a drop in income from underwriting and also losses incurred from the purchase of securities in the framework of the bank's underwriting obligations. The fall in the price of securities on the stock market also

took its toll.

Profit from financing activity before provisions for doubtful debts fell to NIS 5.96m. from NIS 7.72m. in the second quarter of 1993. Operating and other income fell to NIS 11.66m. from NIS 15.41m. in the second quarter last year, down 24%.

The drop was mainly due to the bank's losses from securities which grew to NIS 2.45m. from a loss of NIS 266,000 in the same period last year.

In the second quarter General Bank's operating and other expenses fell 7% to NIS 13.28m. from NIS 14.28m.

At the end of June, total assets increased to NIS 1.97 billion, compared with NIS 1.91b. at the end of 1993. Loans to the public remained virtually unchanged at NIS 612 million while deposits from the public increased to NIS 1.64b. from NIS 1.69b. at the end of 1993.

Bank Otzar Hahayal, a subsidiary of Bank Hapoalim, completed the second quarter of the year with a net profit of NIS 4.04m. compared with a net profit of NIS 6.9m. in the corresponding period last year, down 40%.

The bank posted a six month net profit of NIS 11.74m. compared with NIS 14.47m. in the same period of 1994.

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South African Economic Statistics

	Prices 24.8.94	Prices 17.8.94	% Change
Exchange rates			
Commercial rand	3.579	3.586	0.19%
(buy)	4.540	4.540	0.07%
Interest rates			
Money market (BAAs)	10.70%	10.95%	-2.28%
Escom 2008	15.21%	14.77%	5.84%
Escom 3020	15.23%	14.27%	6.72%
RSA 150	14.93%	14.18%	5.27%
UAL Max Income	14.68%	14.40%	1.94%
Prices UTE:			
(buy)	42.3051	42.3905	-0.20%
Escom 168	72.32705	77.54325	-5.51%
Guardbank	36.442	36.1443	-0.82%
UAL Gilt	12.091	12.1785	-0.72%
Max Income	10.4478	10.4374	0.10%
De Beers	110.00	109.50	0.46%
Vaal Reef	414.00	390.00	6.15%
Anglo American	261.50	251.50	3.98%
Barlows	31.25	32.00	-2.03%
SA Brews	88.00	87.75	0.28%
Sasol	32.35	30.50	6.07%
Tiger Oats	43.50	43.25	0.58%
Iscor	4.21	4.03	4.47%
JSE Actuaries Overall	5.858	5.763	1.65%

*RY - running yield.

COMMENTS: Reserve Bank Governor, Chris Stals, signalled that SA was about to enter a new upward phase in interest rates, saying "Early and decisive action" might be needed, if the country wanted to maintain financial stability. Stals' speech to the Bank's AGM came after long bond rate rocketed, as a result of exchange control jitters and fears of inflation and fiscal profligacy. The market calmed down a bit, as Stals reaffirmed his commitment to the war against inflation, scotch exchange control rumours, and gave a stern warning on fiscal policy.

UAL FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT: In South Africa the bond markets are in turmoil. The long-term interest rates have risen from 11.5% in January to 15.5% yesterday - this means capital losses of almost 20% on the ESCOM 2008 or 3150. Our fund remained short dated throughout, and managed to increase the capital value a little and also to increase the income returned. In the March quarter, we distributed 32.15c per unit in June 94.58c and we expect about 36.5c in September. We even expect a rise in short-term rates. At long-term rates of 17% - 18%, we would consider going back into the market, unless something changes in our current outlook.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

SOUTH AFRICA - BONDS: Medium-to-long dated bonds have fallen sharply on low turnover amidst rumors of the abolition of the financial rand & exchange controls, as well as an interest rate rise. The commercial rand/financial rand stands at 21.88% discount. Buying interest has been seen in Treasury T004 bonds at lower levels.

SOUTH AFRICA - EQUITIES: Profit-taking from UK funds on the lack-luster performance of gold-bullion has been partially offset by local buying of gold shares as a hedge against a devaluation of the rand. At the current bullion price, gold shares are fully valued. If and when domestic institutions are allowed to invest overseas, local buying support may well evaporate. We are not seeing buying interest at these levels.

EUROBONDS: The Mexican elections passed without any major market impact, and the spreads against US T-bonds narrowed slightly - there is still value to be had. Sterling bonds improved, but fell back on lack of buying follow-through. Spanish and Portuguese issues yielding over 11% are being bought, as the currencies appear to have stabilized.

HONG KONG: The equity market has broken a minor support level at 9400, as a Government land auction disappointed a nervous property market. Further downside is expected - there is technical support at 9220. Our clients are looking to buy Swire Pacific on weakness.

KUALA LUMPUR & SINGAPORE: The KL equity market is being driven by early election hopes, however blue chips have not kept pace with speculative stocks. Second-liners have been resilient despite being over-bought, but some profit-taking may be expected if political speculation

UNITED KINGDOM - GILTS: After a sluggish period, gilts have taken a lead from more buoyant US T-bonds and more confident European government bond markets. However there is strong resistance at 101-27 on the Sept. long gilt future, and the market is capped by two largely unloved bids at 102-20.

UNITED KINGDOM - EQUITIES: The FT-SE 100 index broke through the 3200 barrier, driven by the futures market and by the Wall St. strength. The stock exchange is being compounded by futures buying, though heavy cash investing is not apparent. An ascent on 3300 is a real possibility and our clients are buying Cookson & Cable & Wireless.

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The Jerusalem Post
Friday, August 26, 1994

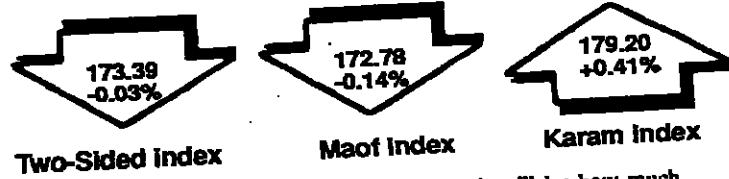
מקראות

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market quiet as Karam trading nears all-time low

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



A QUIET day passed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday. The Two-Sided Index declined by 0.03 percent and the Maof by 0.14 percent, while the Karam index rose by 0.4 percent. Turnover was low at NIS 156 million.

The turnover on the Karam market (including the Parallel List) hit nearly an all-time low at NIS 47 million only.

The market started trading with rises of close to a full point on the Two-Sided Index, which declined by close to a point and a half, and then rose again, to stabilize more or less at the level trading started.

In fact, it seemed that the market was returning to its behavior of before the announcement of a capital gains tax.

The tax was practically forgotten yesterday. The only reminder of last Sunday's storm was the opening of discussions on the subject in the Knesset Finance Committee.

Traders were debating what would happen next Monday, when the Bank of Israel is expected to announce the parameters of its monetary policy for the month of September.

The guessing game starts in fact at a 0.5 percent increase in interest rates. Such a rise is taken for granted.

The question is whether the Bank of Israel will raise the interest rate on loans to the commercial banks by more than the usual 0.5 percent, and if so, whether it will by how much.

Like last month, there are some at the Central Bank who suggest that the rise be higher than usual.

The feeling is that those who espouse that position are more numerous than usual. They feel that some kind of anti-inflationary stand has to be taken, lest inflation accelerate.

They are pointing particularly to the absence of any concrete steps on the part of the Treasury against inflation.

Trading on the exchange floor was, like before the tax, the domain of the money managers.

The mutual funds remained "in neutral" as one trader said, with neither redemptions nor purchases. The provider funds were conspicuously absent.

The Two-Sided market was marked by small rises and declines. Only a few securities showed signs of activity or high turnover. The most traded security was Isramco which rose 4 percent on a turnover of NIS 9 million. Hanal was up 10 percent and Kaveli Ashrai and Rogozin were up 5 percent.

Petrochemicals was up 4.2 percent and Clal Insurance was up 4.2 percent. Aryit was down 3.8 percent after the announcement that Evergreen had liquidated its holdings in the company. Bezek was down 1.7 percent.

The issue of Barkan Cellars was marginally undersubscribed (7%).

FTSE jumps as market said set for further rises

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares rose further and traders and analysts said the market looked set for further gains.

The FTSE 100 Index rose 29 points to 2,324.2 but ended off the day's high of 2,344.7.

FRANKFURT - German shares, led by banks, closed higher on short covering after Wall Street's rally, underpinned by firm bond and futures prices. The DAX ended up 1.22 percent at 2,152.21.

PARIS - French shares ended the first day of the September account with strong gains but were off the session's highs as bond futures reduced their gains.

The CAC 40 index closed up 20.23, or 1.01 percent, at 2,026.52.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended higher but off highs as the market ran out of steam in late afternoon.

The Broad SPI Index finished up 6.38 at 1,701.84.

TOKYO - Stocks ended slightly weaker, with sentiment dampened by continuing profit-taking by domestic institutions.

The Nikkei average ended down 68.31 points, or 0.33 percent, at 20,443.29.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong shares closed sharply higher on the back of Wall Street's rally and selective bargain hunting by local investors.

The Hang Seng Index ended at 9,336.11, 97.42 points, or 1.05 percent, at 9,336.11.

SYDNEY - Australian stocks closed higher on good turnover following gains in New York and supported by a stronger resources sector.

The All Ordinaries Index closed up 16.6 points at 2,077.8.

JOHANNESBURG - South African shares finished mostly firmer but off earlier highs as late profits were taken in active two-way trading.

The Overall Index closed 21 points higher at 5,918, the industrial index was up 15 at 6,666 and the gold index ended 11 higher at 2,294.

Stocks end mostly lower

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended mostly lower yesterday, giving back some of Wednesday's spectacular gains, after a bond rally fizzled.

Large-company stocks dipped in sympathy with bond prices, but solid advances in technology issues kept the Nasdaq prices aloft.

Stocks firmed early in the session along with bonds, but the fixed-income market could not hold its early gains and headed lower in the afternoon.

The 30-year bond was off a full point late in the session, giving back a little more than it had gained.

Wednesday. The stock and bond markets surged Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrial up 70 points to 3,846.73, a five-month high. The spurt came after unexpectedly weak economic data and reports of solid corporate profits soothed investors' fears about higher interest rates near-term.

Wednesday's advances represented a nearly 100-point gain for the week. Today, some investors couldn't resist the chance to sell and take profits.

"After you've suffered for three or four months - and people have been under intense fear - that's what they'll do if they see pretty nice moves coming out of the market," said Don Hays, director of investment strategy at Wheat, First Securities/Butcher & Singer in Richmond, Virginia. "We've had a lot of questions today from people saying, should we sell, should we sell."

The issues of economically sensitive companies, which led the Big Board higher on Wednesday, led the retreat yesterday. Among the 30 Dow components, Caterpillar, International Paper, Eastman Kodak, Dupont, Exxon and Chevron all fell.

But IBM, another Dow component, headed a broad advance in technology issues, which had lagged the market earlier this week.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 16.84 to 3,829.89.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 1,125 to 1,056 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 692 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 284.1 million shares as of 2000 GMT, against 309.80 million in the previous session.

The NYSE's composite index fell 0.43 to 258.18.

The Nasdaq index rose 2.50 to 754.21.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index fell 0.86 to 447.12.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Price	Chg	Name	Price	Chg	Name	Price	Chg	Name	Price	Chg	Name
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa

NEW YORK

Price	Chg	Name	Price	Chg	Name	Price	Chg	Name
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa
49.25	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa	10.75	-0.25	Alcoa

LIBOR RATES

Rate	Chg	Term	Rate	Chg	Term
3 months	-0.0025	LIBOR	3 months	-0.0025	LIBOR
6 months	-0.0025	LIBOR	6 months	-0.0025	LIBOR
12 months	-0.0025	LIBOR	12 months	-0.0025	LIBOR

FOREIGN FINANCIAL DATA

Country	Index	Chg	Country	Index	Chg
USA	3,829.89	-16.84	UK	2,026.52	+20.23
FRANCE	2,077.8	+16.6	GERMANY	2,152.21	+1.22
ITALY	1,701.84	+6.38	SPAIN	1,701.84	+6.38

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Chg	Commodity	Price	Chg
Oil	25.84	-0.03	Gold	329.3	-0.03
Silver	15.78	-0.03	Platinum	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

US COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Chg	Commodity	Price	Chg
Oil	25.84	-0.03	Gold	329.3	-0.03
Silver	15.78	-0.03	Platinum	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

LONDON COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Chg	Commodity	Price	Chg
Oil	25.84	-0.03	Gold	329.3	-0.03
Silver	15.78	-0.03	Platinum	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Metal	Price	Chg	Metal	Price	Chg
Gold	329.3	-0.03	Silver	15.78	-0.03
Platinum	1,115	-0.03	Palladium	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Metal	Price	Chg	Metal	Price	Chg
Gold	329.3	-0.03	Silver	15.78	-0.03
Platinum	1,115	-0.03	Palladium	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

LONDON METAL FUTURES

Metal	Price	Chg	Metal	Price	Chg
Gold	329.3	-0.03	Silver	15.78	-0.03
Platinum	1,115	-0.03	Palladium	1,115	-0.03
Copper	1.025	-0.003	Aluminum	1.025	-0.003

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STERLING	1.547/85	0.843/48	1.305/73	6.301/30
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SFR	0.291/820	0.1214/18	18.83/8N	0.2461/85

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Mac. TA beats Keflavik

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Tel Aviv, Israel's sole remaining challenger in Europe, wasted little time in turning on the heat to melt away Iceland's Keflavik, in the second leg of the preliminary round of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Two early goals by twin brothers Alon and Gadi Brumer in the 13th and 16th minutes ended the Icelanders' brief flirtation with continental soccer. The Tel Avivians won the match 4-1, and proceeded to the next round with a comfortable 6-2 margin on aggregate.

Maccabi started confidently before a paltry crowd of just over a thousand hard-core supporters. The opening goal came from a defensive error. Near midfield import Uri Shukranov crossed the ball from the right. A hurried clearance found Alon who blasted the ball goalwards past the surprised Keflavik goalkeeper.

Three minutes later, Avi Nimni turned on his pace just inside the right edge of the area, and was needlessly brought down for a penalty.

Gadi struck his shot into the back of the net. The Icelanders appeared dejected knowing they now had to score at least four goals to take the tie.

The Tel Avivians sought to improve their tally, and Shukranov was parked and bustled in the middle of the park. Although the summer signing from Dynamo Minsk cannot be fault-

ed in terms of work rate, he certainly lacked creative verve on the night.

It was veteran Nir Klinger who added the next goal, rupturing the center of the part-timers' defense in the 25th minute as he charged past two defenders before slotting the ball home.

The Tel Avivians began to relax and Keflavik created two good chances for Magnusson and Hodeson, before Serbian Marko Tanevic replied for the Icelanders in the 36th minute. The Maccabi defense just let the visitors pass the ball forwards without any serious challenge. Tanevic's crisp shot took a sharp deflection off Amir Shalah's chest, then spun into the net with keeper Alexander Obarov wrongfooted.

The standard of the match nosedived after the interval, as the Tel Avivians seemed fixated with tomorrow's domestic curtain-raiser against Ironi Ashdod.

Keflavik pushed forward and had more of the possession, with the hosts hardly stringing two good passes together. In 62nd minute, Luxembourg referee Roger Phillips waved away a penalty appeal by Magnusson, who reacted angrily to the decision.

The local fans finally had something to cheer about when Shukranov made way for super striker Alon Miz-

rahi in the 68th minute. Within ten seconds the ball was in the net again, as Eli Drakis controlled a long pass into the area, then turned and shot into the goal.

Pepped up by Mizrahi's entrance, the Tel Avivians began to shine again. Four good chances were created but Mizrahi was unable to find the net on each occasion. In the last incident of the match, two minutes from time, Phillips rejected what looked to be a valid penalty claim when Mizrahi was upended after bearing two defenders in the box.

The 4-1 win should give Abraham Grant's men some confidence as they go into the draw for the next round this week. Nevertheless, the opposition in the next round will be made of far sterner stuff than Keflavik.

Yesterday's European Cup Winners' Cup results: (preliminary round, second leg) In Tel Aviv: Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel) 4, IFK Keflavik (Iceland) 1. Score: Maccabi Tel Aviv - Alon Brumer (13th), Gadi Brumer (16th), Nir Klinger (25th), Eli Drakis (68th). IFK Keflavik - Marko Tanevic (36th). Attendance: 1,000. Maccabi Tel Aviv wins 6-2 on aggregate.

In Tirane: Tirana (Albania) 3, Pandor Bobevski (Belarus) 0. Score: Tirana 3-0. Attendance: 2,000. Tirana wins on away goals 2-0. In Presov: Tirana Presov (Slovakia) 4, Besora (Northern Ireland) 0. Score: Tirana Presov 4-0. Attendance: 2,000. Tirana Presov wins 4-0 on aggregate.

In Vilnius: Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) 6, Bary Town (Wales) 0. Score: Zalgiris Vilnius 6-0. Attendance: 2,000. Zalgiris Vilnius wins 7-0 on aggregate.

In Nicosia: Omonia Nicosia (Cyprus) 3, Tiligat Tiraspol (Moldova) 1. Score: Omonia Nicosia 3-1. Attendance: 2,000. Omonia Nicosia wins 4-1 on aggregate.

Soccer season starts

ORI LEWIS

THE silly season is over and the time has come for another generous portion of the sport of the masses.

Was it just our imagination, or was this last summer one of the most eventful soccer off-seasons ever?

Of course, there was the talk of how the clubs were rebuilding their lineups and fine tuning their skills and tactics at training camps in Europe. It was almost impossible to keep up with the transfer market and the pace at which the top players were demanding higher and higher salaries.

Privatization was all the rage and the talk of independent money being poured into the clubs was rife. The new order on and off the pitch is only just beginning, but its dawnings has inspired many to speculate upon the bright future of local soccer.

But now it's settling down at last. As the opening whistles are heard at National League grounds all over the country tomorrow afternoon, all the promises that we were fed during the summer will have to be kept.

If we choose to believe those promises, then Rubie Shapira's new-look Hapoel Haifa team, into which he has poured a fortune, will be one of the main contenders for the title. Their star-studded lineup includes Reuven Atar and Tal Benin.

This weekend's national League fixtures (all matches tomorrow): Hapoel Be'er Sheva vs. Beitar Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, 5 pm; Ironi Ashdod vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Ashdod, 6 pm; Maccabi Netanya vs. Maccabi Peta Tikva, Peta Tikva, 7 pm; Maccabi Haifa vs. Maccabi Herzliya, Kiryat Eliezer, 7 pm; Hapoel Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Peta Tikva, 5 pm; Zedekia Holon vs. Hapoel Haifa, Be'er Sheva, 4:30 pm; Hapoel Tel Aviv vs. Beitar Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, 6:30 pm; Beitar Yehuda vs. Ironi Rishon, Be'er Sheva, 5 pm.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Atherton appointed as Ashes skipper

England's controversial cricket captain Mike Atherton was confirmed yesterday as skipper for England's winter cricket tour of Australia.

The 26-year-old batsman was officially reappointed just before leading England into its first one-day international against South Africa at Edgbaston.

British athletes fail drug tests

Two English athletes were flown home from the Commonwealth Games because they failed dope tests, officials said yesterday, and three other British athletes were also suspected of taking banned drugs.

British Athletic Federation executive chairman Peter Radford said shot putter Paul Edwards and 800 meters runner Diane Modahl had both tested positive in the first of two samples taken from athletes after racing or during training.

Strike talks end with no progress

Negotiations aimed at ending the Major League Baseball strike broke off yesterday with no new talks scheduled.

John Calhoun Wells, head of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said the negotiations had been recessed, "subject to call."

Earlier, players union lawyer Eugene Orza said the talks probably would not resume until next week.

Burstein clinches tennis semifinal

Haifa's Shiri Burstein was the only Israeli player to clinch a semifinal berth yesterday in the Vanessa Phillips Women's \$10,000 Satellite being played in Haifa.

Burstein, seeded third and 667 in the world, won a tough and-go match against fellow Haifaite Nataly Cabana with 16-year-old Cabana emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the future. The score was 5-7, 6-0, 7-5 with Burstein just hanging on for the game at 5-5.

Heather Chait

Buccaneers' owner dies

High Calverhouse, the only owner of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers ever had, died yesterday after a long battle with lung cancer. He was 75.

Calverhouse died at Charity Hospital-Louisiana Regional Medical Center of New Orleans.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - Wednesday's Premier League results: Aston Villa 1, Southampton 1; Manchester City 3, West Ham 0; Newcastle 4, Coventry 0; Norwich 4, Crystal Palace 0; Queens Park Rangers 3, Sheffield Wednesday 2; Tottenham 2, Everton 1. Wednesday's European Cup results: Glasgow Rangers (Scotland) 4, AEK Athens (Greece) 1. AEK Athens wins 3-0 on aggregate. Hajduk Split (Croatia) 4, Legia Warsaw (Poland) 0. Hajduk Split wins 5-0 on aggregate. CRICKET - England beat South Africa by six wickets in the first one-day (55 overs) international at Edgbaston yesterday.

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WORKER (MALE) female for house in Savon, live-in. References essential. Tel. 03-513588.

WARM FAMILY SEEKS live-in au pair, English-speaking, non-smoker, good conditions. 02-8427844.

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SALES

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Russia demands say on status of Jerusalem

ALON PINKAS
and news agencies

RUSSIA deserves and demands a say in the political status of Jerusalem's holy sites in the future, said Victor Posuvaliuk, head of the Middle East department in the Russian Foreign Ministry, in his meeting yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin.

The Russian appeal came as a surprise to Beilin, according to participants at the meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Posuvaliuk is here as President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy.

"I'd like to stress that Russia possesses the largest Christian Orthodox community in the world," Posuvaliuk said.

The Russian government and its predecessor, the Soviet Union, traditionally maintained that the real-estate assets of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem are a political issue that warrants Moscow's involvement in any talks on the city's future.

Posuvaliuk arrived following visits to Syria and Jordan. In Damascus he met with Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

Later in the day, Posuvaliuk met in Gaza with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Today he is to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"The envoy told us that Russia is concerned and willing to support the Palestinian Authority in all ways and means," Arafat said.

Posuvaliuk said Russia will work to restart Syrian-Israeli peace talks, while continuing to sell arms to Damascus.



Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin welcomes Russian envoy Victor Posuvaliuk to the ministry in Jerusalem yesterday. (Yossi Cohen/Scout 80)

"We intend to develop our relations with Syria in the military sphere," he said, "but we're sure it won't harm the peace process. We now see the key track is Syrian-Israeli negotiations. We are

working hard on this branch." Posuvaliuk said Russia would try to persuade the Syrians to join regional multilateral talks on the environment, economy, water, and other issues.

"The Russian cosponsor will do its best in order to guarantee progress on the multilateral track," he said.

Beilin welcomed Russia's move. "The Russian contacts in the

Arab world are indispensable," he reportedly told Posuvaliuk, "and whatever can be done by you in order to accelerate the peace process will be very much appreciated."

Beilin: Bhutto needs Israel's permission to enter Gaza Strip

ALON PINKAS

THE visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Gaza seems to be on track again, except for the question of whether she will receive permission to enter.

Bhutto's visit, which on Wednesday was called off by Pakistani officials who said it would conflict with that of US Vice President Al Gore, was yesterday rescheduled for September 4, according to Ahmed Tibi,

adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Gore's trip was canceled on Wednesday due to an injury.

However, in contrast to previous official indifference to a possible Bhutto visit, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said yesterday she will need Israel's permission to enter

Gaza from Egypt through the Israeli-controlled Rafah checkpoint.

"Israel is the one who will decide whether Benazir Bhutto will arrive or not," Beilin told reporters yesterday. "If she wants to come we will have to decide if we agree or not."

If Israel insists on an official request, the visit may be canceled, since Pakistan does not recognize Israel.

Moroccan envoy met Rabin, Peres here last week

A Moroccan envoy carrying a message from King Hassan was in Israel last week and met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Foreign Ministry sources confirmed the visit yesterday and said the emissary had brought a personal message from the king relating to the regional business conference scheduled to be held in Casablanca in

October. The sources denied that the message contained anything else.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir will next week visit Morocco to prepare for the conference. He will then go on to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet World Bank officials and discuss economic cooperation plans for the Middle East. *Alon Pinkas*

PLO seeks aid from Japanese

MIKE JACOBS
TOKYO

A DELEGATION headed by Ahmed Oreia (Abu Ala), economics minister in the Palestinian Authority, has concluded three days of talks with government officials here in a bid to attract Japanese investment and funds for the Palestinian police in the autonomous areas.

"I feel our visit will produce very good results," Oreia told a news conference in Tokyo on Wednesday.

"The purpose of the trip was twofold," he said. "I demonstrated that there are good opportunities for the Japanese private sector to invest in Gaza and Jericho. I also discussed what help the Japanese government can give to increase the interim period of investment from two to five years."

Oreia asked Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono for help in funding the Palestinian Police. He acknowledged that the constitution of some donor nations prohibits them giving money to the police force.

"However, the police are really a peacekeeping force and support for

them is support for the peace process," Oreia said.

A Japanese foreign ministry official admitted "the ball is now in our court and needs to be played back."

Oreia said controlling internal Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process is a threefold challenge.

"The ultimate attitude of public opinion depends on three elements — the main one being the continuation of negotiations [with Israel]. The second is development of the economy and employment, and third is security and stability provided by a strong police force. The success of these three things can help form a public opinion that will absorb all doubts and generate unity."

An Israeli diplomat in Tokyo said: "The better off the Palestinians are, the better off we are. Whatever Japan can do to strengthen the autonomous regions, and help to create functioning institutions is more than welcome to the Israeli government."

Kohl rules out Germans as Mideast peacekeepers

BONN (Reuters) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said yesterday he ruled out sending German soldiers as UN peacekeepers to the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who visited Bonn this week, had suggested there were no obstacles to including Germans in the UN peacekeeping troops.

"This is not an issue for us," Kohl told reporters. "We will not take up this idea."

According to Israel Radio, Peres responded that Israel would prefer to host a million German tourists than a thousand soldiers.

Upper Nazareth mayor decries mooted changes to investment law

DAVID RUDGE

UPPER Nazareth Mayor Menahem Ariav yesterday called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to stop plans by the Treasury to change the law for the encouragement of capital investment.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's proposals to cut subsidies to businesses in Development Zone A areas from 38 percent to 30% and in Zone B from 25% to 20% are expected to be brought before the cabinet for approval on Sunday.

Ariav said the grants had helped boost investment in development towns, leading to the creation of new industries and jobs which in turn had greatly assisted in the task of absorbing new immigrants.

He warned that any attempts to reduce the subsidies would jeopardize future investments in commercial, industrial, tourism and other projects, and could seriously damage achievements so far.

In an urgent cable to Rabin yesterday, Ariav said: "We call for your full support in keeping the existing law for encouraging capital investment in its present form."

Amir Rozenblit adds: Economics Minister Shimon Shetret told reporters in Beersheba yesterday that he was opposed to Shohat's plan.

"Changing the law... will hurt the incentive for investment in peripheral areas such as the Galilee and the Negev," Shetret said, adding that at the cabinet meeting he would support preserving the current level of subsidies.

Shetret spoke before the closing ceremony for the first business development course offered in the Beduin sector.

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Court upholds name of Israel-Palestinian rights group

EVELYN GORDON

THE state cannot refuse to register an organization called the Israeli-Palestinian Association for Human Rights out of fear that the word "Palestinian" might imply support for an independent Palestinian state, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

In 1991, the registrar of non-profit associations told the association it would not be registered unless it changed its name to Israelis and Palestinians for Human Rights. In this context, "Palestinian" clearly refers to people rather than to a political entity, the registrar said, whereas the words "Israeli-Palestinian Association" — given the PLO's declarations about the establishment of a Palestinian state — might "mislead the public into thinking the state of Israel agrees... to the establishment of such a state."

The Jerusalem District Court upheld this decision. Against the background of the intifada and the Palestinians' national aspirations, the court said, the desired name gives the impression that these aspirations have borne fruit, by implying Israeli governmental recognition of an Israeli-Palestinian association.

However, Justices Meir Shamgar, Dov Levine and Dalia Dornier ruled that the registrar does not have the authority to consider whether a name is likely to mislead

the public as to the government's stand on an issue.

In contrast to what the district court said, an organization's right to choose its own name is not secondary, the justices wrote. This right is actually part of the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and association, since a name expresses the organization's goals and character. Therefore, they said, this right can be infringed only in the case of almost certain damage to a legitimate public interest.

While preventing the public from being misled is such an interest, the justices continued, this interest must be interpreted in as narrow and concrete a fashion as possible when it conflicts with such an important basic right. Thus, it would be permissible for the registrar to reject a name if, for instance, it is so similar to that of another organization that the public is likely to con-

fuse them, or if it wrongly implies a connection to the government, or if it misleads the public as to the organization's goals.

However, the justices said, it is not permissible to reject a name out of fear that someone might interpret it as implying government approval for the organization's goals, because this is not a reasonable fear.

"Does the police inspector-general, in permitting a demonstration to take place, thereby express the state's position on the matters the demonstration is meant to comment on?" the justices wrote.

"Does the Israel Broadcasting Authority, in allotting air time to a particular speaker, thereby express the state's approval of his views? Does the Film Censorship Committee, in approving a film to be screened in Israel, thereby express the state's agreement with its content?"

"The registrar doesn't approve the name [of an organization] or its contents; he merely confirms that it doesn't lead to any of the [objective] negative consequences listed above," the justices continued. "His authority does not include the right to serve as a mouthpiece for the government's opinions, or as a censor for 'annoying' opinions."

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1994

All students should be educated equally

A new program aims to reverse the practice of shunting working-class youths off to vocational classes, Batsheva Tsur reports

WHY are all the lousy schools in our neighborhood? parents in disadvantaged areas have long been asking. Next week, their problem will begin to be addressed.

Two innovative schools, aimed at providing long school days and a "Mizrahi" or Oriental/North African cultural orientation, will open September 1 - one in Jerusalem's Gilo quarter and the other in Tel Aviv's Hatikva neighborhood.

The schools are the first of 15 academic high schools in lower-income neighborhoods and development towns planned for the next decade by Kedma, a nonprofit educational association which calls itself "Quality Education for All."

Funded by the Education Ministry, Kedma gets extra help from private foundations to cover the cost of the "extras" normally paid for by parents.

Its basic premise is that children in poor neighborhoods are in no way fundamentally different from those in other areas, says Dr. Shlomo Swirski, academic director of the association.

Two years ago, a group of mostly Mizrahi - as distinguished from "Sephardi" - intellectuals and educators set up Kedma. "It grew out of grassroots parents' groups which wondered why all the lousy schools are in our neighborhoods," says Gilo Kedma principal Clara Yona. A resident of Jerusalem's working-class Katamonim section, Yona says: "People want good schools in their own backyards."

"This concept is actually quite revolutionary in terms of Israeli secondary school policies," says Swirski, "because secondary education in this country has remained decidedly elitist."

He points to the statistics showing that only 20 percent of working-class Mizrahi pupils and 12 percent of Israeli Arab high-school pupils now finish high school with a full matriculation (bagrut) certificate.

The assumption until now, Swirski says, was that children in low-income neighborhoods were not candidates for academic education and were best served by vocational high schools. Even today, the few children who are perceived as "gifted" are sent by the educational authorities to high schools in more affluent areas, he says.

The situation caused Nehama Shikri of Jerusalem to enroll her youngest son in Kedma. Her eldest son had failed to complete his matriculation while a pupil at the Denmark Comprehensive School in the working-class Katamonim section; he is now struggling to earn one after his release from the army. The second son was in the school's vocational track and also did not complete his matriculation.

"My third son is bright, but, like his brothers, he has come from a very weak school in Pata [a



Sami Chetreet, principal of Kedma's Hatikva school, talks to seventh-grade students attending the organization's summer preparatory course.

(Photo: Pablin)

disadvantaged neighborhood nearby]," Shikri says. "The teaching was very poor and there was a very high turnover of teachers. I don't remember a year in which the same teacher stayed with the class."

Shikri noted few children from the Katamonim and especially from Pata complete full matriculation. "By the time they get into the Denmark School, they are already stigmatized. They suffer from this and the fact that elementary schools in the neighborhood are about a year behind the level of, say, Beit Hakerem, where the middle-class Denmark School children come from."

"The situation is most acute in Tel Aviv, which is also the testing ground for the Education Ministry's new experimental school programs, includ-

ing the new science and humanities schools," Swirski says.

"Although these schools are committed to having one-third of the student body from south Tel Aviv, at present only 10% of the pupils come from these lower-income neighborhoods. They all have stiff entrance exams."

"Ironically, Kedma is part of [ministry director-general Shimshon] Shoshani's new experimental school program, perhaps because it is the only new initiative in secondary education for non-middle-class children in the secular network today."

Sami Chetreet, principal of the new Kedma school in Hatikva, says "Kedma is not anti-integration but merely holds that the integration

programs of the past 20 years have done little good to children in working-class neighborhoods, particularly in south Tel Aviv."

JERUSALEMITE SHIKRI said local parents were eager to "have our children taken seriously." The fact that Kedma classes have only 25 pupils as opposed to the 40-plus in other schools is another significant factor, she said.

There was no screening process for the 75 children accepted into Hatikva's three classrooms or the 50 who got places in the Gilo school. The small converted bank cannot house the additional 25 Jerusalem children on its waiting list.

Kedma is under no illusions about how difficult it will be to get these seventh graders who have

come from weak elementary schools up to the level of good eighth graders by the start of the 1995-96 year, its experts say. Consequently, it has set up an intensive preparatory program.

This includes providing hot lunches to make possible supervised homework from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be little frontal teaching among the 25 children in each class. Subject teachers will act as tutors who will keep in touch with up to nine pupils every day, including afternoons and evenings, Swirski says.

"Education is about teachers," he says. "All our teachers are self-selected, and intensely motivated; they have the highest expectations from their pupils. They know that they and the kids are going to have to work around the clock."

Children learn a new language that's all in the cards

ONE reason nine-year-old Dana Tal of Haifa likes to play bridge is that it gives her a chance to show up her elders.

"I'm little, but I can play seriously with people twice my age," brags Dana, who has the winning ribbons and trophies to prove it.

This weekend, she will be one of more than 100 youths ending their summer vacation with a three-day bridge camp in Caesarea, which has been run for the last eight years by the Israel Bridge Federation.

Bridge is not just something to do in leisure time; in some schools it is now part of the curriculum.

"It's a fun game that gives you lots of brain power," says Dana, who has been studying bridge since she was six, when her bridge-playing parents decided to

teach her and her sister. Now she qualifies to play in both the junior league, for players under the age of 26, and the school league, for those under 20.

Of the more than 7,000 participants in IBF tournaments, 300 are estimated to be young players, according to an IBF source.

Over the last three years, bridge has become much more popular among local youth, especially where it has been introduced through private tutoring and extracurricular classes in schools.

David Topaz, who teaches bridge in Haifa, recommends the game for children. "There is a special ritual of behavior that must be followed and every player must speak the language used only in bridge. The game gives them invaluable tools, such as discipline and the ability to plan and antic-

Once considered a game for adults, bridge is now played by schoolchildren in summer camps and even in schools, Arvin Johnson writes

ture far ahead."

The bridge camp is intended to improve the skills of advanced players and let them socialize with other young bridge players, said Zvi Ben-Tovim, managing director of the bridge federation. The camp is sponsored by the Feher Foundation, which supports social programs and activities.

Ran Schneider, 18, of Ramat Gan, is one young player whose abilities were polished by the bridge camp. Schneider participated last year, and made it to the

national high-school team this year, the first time it competed in Europe. The team won third place at the European Youth Championship in Holland this summer.

Amira Ben-Mordechai, a school inspector in the north, was the driving force behind the idea to introduce bridge into the school syllabus. The Education Ministry responded to her efforts by circulating a letter recommending her plan.

"Usually kids who study bridge are the best in their class," said

Ben-Mordechai, who was the principal of the Kadoori primary school near Kfar Tavor in Galilee when she began her efforts in 1988.

Working through the Karev Foundation, which promotes parental involvement in education

and curriculum planning, and local municipalities, Ben-Mordechai and Australian-born Eddie Nemenoff have dealt what seems to be a winning hand - the idea of bridge play in schools.

"This is a move that hasn't even caught on in the US. Last year bridge was taught in seven schools from the fifth grade up, and now there are a dozen more that want it for this year," Nemenoff said.

Schools such as Ein Gev Regional, Kibbutz Ginosar Regional, Upper Nazareth's Allon and Sharet schools, as well as schools in Afula are participating. Schools

in Kfar Sava and Ashkelon, as well as Zvi Shapira elementary school and Orit-Singalovsky (both in Tel Aviv) have instituted the game as an extracurricular activity.

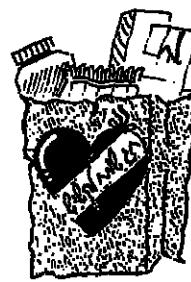
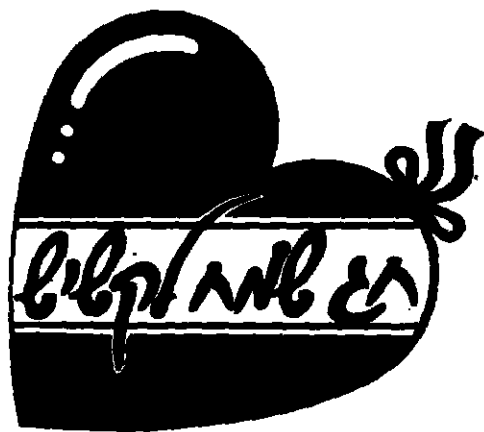
The schools' involvement introduces students from all social strata to the game. "I'm teaching all kinds of children, and it's wonderful to see Russian and Ethiopian immigrant kids playing bridge together," Nemenoff said.

"With bridge, kids gain an extra tool for thinking, reasoning and decision-making that helps them in other subjects."

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Unclear limits of Palestinian power

Has Israel extended PLO control to the rest of the West Bank or trapped the PLO into 'autonomy-minus'? Dore Gold asks

THE Oslo agreement, which was initiated a year ago, envisioned two possible courses of action in dealing with the rest of the disputed territories after the first stage of Gaza-Jericho was completed.

The first option was to reach a full autonomy agreement covering all of the West Bank and involving Palestinian elections for a ruling council.

The second — far less ambitious — plan called for early empowerment of the Palestinians in only five functional areas, which would come under their control: education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, and tourism.

This week Israel and the PLO initiated an early empowerment agreement in Cairo. The full implications of this development are not very clear.

Has the Israeli government extended PLO control to the rest of the West Bank, just as serious questions are being asked about the success of the Gaza-Jericho test? Or has Israel trapped the PLO into what was once described as "autonomy-minus," that is, a highly circumscribed sort of autonomy over people, with no real control of land?

Early empowerment was first raised as an idea during the pre-Oslo Washington talks, as a means of skirting the question of the extent of the Palestinians' territorial jurisdiction.



Health care in the West Bank is one of five functional areas to be handed over to the Palestinians under the agreement initiated this week.

(Eyal Izhar)

At the time, Israel sought to limit their territorial foothold to the area around major Arab population centers, while the Palestinians demanded that their control extend to the pre-1967 borders. As negotiations threatened to stall over this point, early empowerment was conceived as a means of giving the Palestinians a sense

of tangible progress in the peace process, with authority over issues that affect their everyday lives.

At the start of the last early empowerment talks between Israel and the PLO last month, the head of the civil administration in the West Bank, Brig. General Gadi Zohar, confirmed (in a July 15 interview in *Al Hamishmar*) that Israel still saw early empowerment as a nonterritorial concept.

He said, "We are transferring control of functional issues and not of territory, without a definition of territory; the authority is transferred to people personally."

What Zohar described was something that comes close to the personal autonomy that was originally advocated in the Camp David accords, as opposed to the territorial autonomy that was implemented in Gaza-Jericho.

Other high-level Israeli officials have also made private statements in recent weeks that conform to the view that early empowerment will be highly constrained.

Prime Minister Rabin himself implied this when he stated on August 10 that Israel cannot transfer authority over entire institutions that the Palestinian authorities do not have the financial

wherewithal to support.

NONETHELESS, there are reasons to suspect that what will emerge from early empowerment will be something far more significant than constrained autonomy.

First, the Oslo Agreement itself took into account the possibility that both Israel and the PLO would choose the early empowerment route. The "Agreed Minutes" to the agreement clearly define the jurisdiction of any early empowerment regime in territorial terms and not in terms of limited personal autonomy alone.

For example, paragraph A states that "any powers transferred to Palestinians pursuant to the Declaration of Principles prior to the inauguration of the Council will be subject to the principles pertaining to Article IV, as set out in these agreed minutes below."

Article IV was the key clause in the main body of the DOP that in effect established territorial jurisdiction "covering" West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, "in arrangements for Palestinian self-rule."

Like Article IV, the new early empowerment agreement specifically excludes Palestinian jurisdiction in areas that will be discussed in final status talks (that is, Jerusalem, settlements, IDF facilities).

But this exception implies Palestinian jurisdiction everywhere

else. Israel, nonetheless, will make the case that in Gaza-Jericho, all governmental powers — except those which Israel specified as being retained by the IDF — were given to the Palestinians; in the rest of the territories, the Palestinians obtained jurisdiction only in those fields in which they were specifically empowered.

There is another reason why something more significant than previously anticipated could arise from early empowerment.

On March 31, when Israel negotiated with the PLO special arrangements following the Hebron massacre, the Rabin government already undertook in writing to "explore possible expansion of the scope of these negotiations [early empowerment] beyond the five spheres [culture, health, etc.]."

As the authority of the PLO is extended over time, early empowerment could evolve, very gradually, into a full-blown territorial autonomy agreement over the rest of the West Bank, without the complications of Palestinian elections for Arafat or a tough Knesset debate for the Rabin government.

WHAT WILL early empowerment mean for the future of the territories? Initially what will emerge are two overlapping sources of authority for the Palestinians: the PLO in Jericho and the IDF civil administration.

Thus, the Palestinians may be responsible for the content of their educational system; but if, say, they want to build a new school, the planning and construction functions of government will still be in Israeli hands.

In federal systems, like that of the U.S., such divisions of authority are common between the federal government and local state government.

In this case the division is being made between former (and possibly future) adversaries. The Palestinians will undoubtedly push to expand every aspect of their functional autonomy in the rest of the West Bank into the full territorial autonomy they enjoy in Gaza-Jericho.

In other words, the PLO will seek to avoid, in the long term, the possible emergence of a functional compromise in the rest of the territories.

Instead, it will seek to set the stage for Palestinian statehood beyond Gaza-Jericho, in all the West Bank as well.

The outcome of this struggle will depend on the will of the Israeli government to protect remaining Israeli interests with the substantial residual powers that the IDF still retains.

The writer is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project — Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

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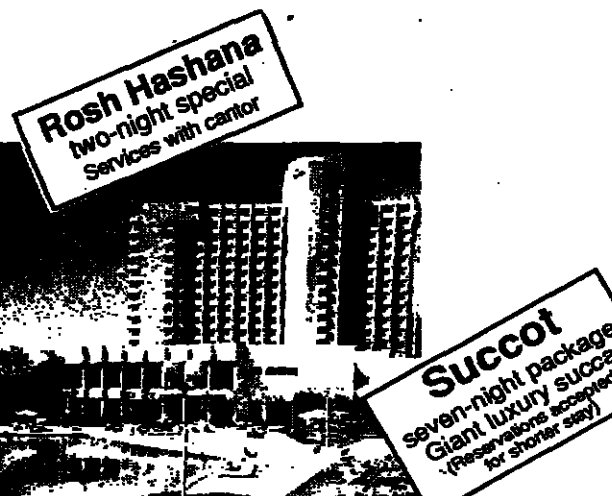
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Hasbara Dept.

Murder in the name of the family

Long-standing tradition is behind the phenomenon of killing women who have brought shame to their families, Laura Rosen Cohen reports

IN the Old City of Jerusalem, Damascus Gate is the site of a busy market. This summer, on June 27, Damascus Gate was also the scene of a grisly murder. Taghrid Diyab, 27, was brutally slain in front of her three children. She was stabbed 16 times and her throat was slit. Police are currently searching for her brother Nabil and suspect the murder was a "family honor" killing.

In Ramle, Sara Almograb, 23 and pregnant, was reported missing in May by her husband. The police opened an investigation, and Sara's two brothers were arrested, but police found insufficient evidence to hold them. Orit Daka, spokeswoman for the Central Division of the police, says there is a suspicion this is a family-honor case.

In the past six weeks, violence against women has occurred in Arab and Jewish communities, with seven murders of women by family members or their boyfriends reported in the press. Arab women inside the Green Line and in the areas are trying to coordinate an effective strategy against family-honor killings, says Nawal Assis, head of the Al Fanar (Lighthouse) organization, whose aim it is to fight this phenomenon. Nawal says there have been meetings and demonstrations, and attempts to get religious and community leaders to condemn such murders. So far, their efforts have been virtually fruitless.

On Friday, July 8, Ichlas Bassam was murdered after she was filmed for Israel Television as a Druse woman who had lived in the US, adopted many Western ways and was raising funds for an orphan's home and other social projects for the Druse community. Her brother admitted killing her in defense of family honor. The following Friday, in their home village of Rama, a demonstration to protest against the murder was held, says Assis. "We got telephone calls before the demonstration telling us there would be a massacre there if we came. It was very scary. During the demonstration, the police protected the oppressors, they were not on the side of the demonstrators," says Assis. (See box)

In its fight against such killings Al Fanar has campaigned against the spreading of gossip. In a recent issue of its quarterly newsletter, there was an article entitled "The Role of Rumors and Gossip in the Oppression of Women." The article alleges that by spreading gossip among themselves, women are active participants in the murders; that often a mere rumor about a woman is enough to bring a death sentence.

The article goes on to accuse the gossip-mongers of being "collaborators" in these tragic events, and "upholding the oppressive traditions of the patriarchal regime which are directed against them."

"In this society, men are the guardians of women's sexuality," explains Dr. Danny Rabinowitz, a lecturer at Tel Aviv University who specializes in studies of Arab citizens of Israel and the Beduin in the Negev and Sinai.

Rabinowitz says that when a family has been shamed by a woman's behavior, "the shame stays with the father's family, and not with the husband's family, until her death."

"There are very few murders of this kind between husband and wife. It is not the husband's duty. What you see is soricide, or infanticide - people killing their sisters or children."

For the avenger, says Rabinowitz, "the difference between [having] affairs and rape is not very significant. Both injure the family honor. Even holding hands by a well hurts the family honor. It is an action in the public world...a community crime."

INTIHAL Ghanam, a sociologist and lecturer at the Hebrew University, says that the spread of Islamic fundamentalism makes it difficult to be optimistic about the situation improving. The killing of women as a matter of honor precedes Islam in the Arab world, she says. "Girls were murdered, especially during wartime, as a form of self-defense. In order for the girls not to be raped, they would be killed. The woman's honor and modesty would not be injured."

Nawal Assis says that within the community there is approval of the murder of women, an attitude that "you have to help him [the murderer]." She adds: "You can get five years in jail for rock-throwing. But you can get out of prison while still a young man if you murder a young woman."

While the law provides a life sentence for murder, in practice that means about 20 years, says retired Jerusalem District Court president Asher Felix Landau. Lawyer Menachem Rubinstein says: "The average life sentences actually served ranges from about 13 to 18 years, including remission, depending on the circumstances, instructions from the judge and the prisoner's behavior." Assis says bitterly: "So what if they sit for a few years in jail? That doesn't scare them. If they had to sit their whole lives in jail, that would be very scary."

Feminist organizations such as the Israel Women's Network have



been pressing for more than year to get the police to break down the information on family-honor killings and other violent crimes against women. Hard statistics on how much time is served for these killings or even how many there are is virtually impossible to obtain.

Offer Silva of the spokesman's office at National Police Headquarters, asked about sentences in family-honor killings, said: "We do not have that information available. We are trying to design a system that will separate information about the victim from information about the criminal. However, even when it is ready, there won't be retroactive material available on this subject."

"There are only estimates available on abused women and family-honor killings," says the Network's Yaffa Flisler. "The police

don't keep accurate records of these incidents. They give this type of cultural protection to the criminals."

Flisler says she knows of one case in which a young woman was returned to her family by the police despite the suspicion that she could be in physical danger. Later the body of the 16-year-old girl, Amal Musarati, was found near Kibbutz Gan Shmuel. She had been struck on the head and run over by a car, says Flisler.

A step that should be taken immediately, says Flisler, is to call these cases murders. "The terminology itself makes it romantic, there is an implicit forgiveness in the terminology. We have to call a crime a crime, not to call it honorable."

"Palestinian women's organizations estimate that about 40 women die under these circumstances

every year. This figure includes the women who are reported by their families as having committed suicide, but where doubts remain," says Flisler.

Both Assis and Flisler express anger over what appears to be a laissez faire policy on the part of Israeli authorities. "It's odd that the State of Israel established a policy for moving Beduin into permanent homes but has no policy for crimes against women, like the circumcision of Beduin women," says Flisler.

"These murders happen all over. I have heard about them in Taibe, Shuafat, Rama, Ramle, Tira," says Assis, stressing that women who feel threatened and do go to the police are sent back home to face almost certain danger. "The problem here is that there isn't any interest in them as human beings," she says.

Anatomy of a family-honor killing

The conflict between a Jerusalem woman's family and her husband was 'resolved' when her brother allegedly stabbed her to death, Bill Hutman reports

TWO months ago, on June 20, 27-year-old Taghrid Diyab was fatally stabbed as she walked with her young children down a crowded street just outside Jerusalem's Old City.

Her brother, Nabil Abu Khdeir, 24, is the prime suspect in the slaying. He remains at large; police sources say he has fled to Jericho.

The motive behind the killing: family honor. Witnesses said Abu Khdeir surprised her from behind near the Nablus Road bus station, stabbing her several times in the head and shoulder, and throwing the knife to the ground as he fled. It's said Abu Khdeir believed his sister had dishonored the family.

"I lost two children that day," Mas'ada Abu Khdeir said yesterday. The mother of Nabil and Taghrid was unable to hold back the tears as she recalled the murder and the events that led up to it.

"All I can think of is blood when I think of the events of that day. Vast pools of blood," added the 67-year-old mother of eight.

Her daughter's troubled marriage was the background to the murder, but Mas'ada Abu Khdeir said the subject was too painful for her to discuss. Another family member agreed to speak, on condition of anonymity.

Ten years ago Taghrid Abu Khdeir married Abdel Hakim Diyab of Kafr Akab, just north of Jerusalem, and moved to her husband's village from her family's home in the north Jerusalem neighborhood of Shuafat.

Diyab beat his wife on many occasions, her relative said. "He was a drug addict and a criminal. I don't mean light drugs, but cocaine and heroin."

There were also unconfirmed reports that Diyab collaborated with the Israeli authorities, which also made the Abu Khdeir family, one of the largest in Shuafat, angry at their daughter's choice of a husband.

"He would hit her, tell her to shut up, but she did not leave him. She kept coming back. She loved him," the relative said.

Not long after the marriage, Diyab's family in Kafr Akab reportedly was fed up with his criminal ways and kicked the couple

out of the house, and they move in with her parents in Shuafat. The couple had three children before Diyab was jailed some three years ago for auto theft. He is now serving time in Ramle Prison, police sources confirm.

The Abu Khdeir family pressured Tagrid to divorce her husband. "He was no good. How could she stay with a criminal and drug addict?" the relative said.

The heads of the two families worked out a divorce agreement. In exchange for agreeing to grant his wife a divorce, Diyab was to receive 1,000 Jordanian dinari and the children.

IT REMAINS unclear whether he agreed. What is certain is the Taghrid did not. "She did not want to give up her children," the relative explained. Taghrid and her children returned to Kafr Akab.

Her mother and relative insisted that though they were angry over her returning to Diyab's home, in the end they allowed her to go in peace. "I told her that it was her life, and she can do what she wanted with it," the relative said.

In mid-June, Taghrid returned to the Diyab home. About 10 days later she was killed near the Old City, allegedly by her brother Nabil.

"His friends incited him. The told him that she had dishonored the family, she should have stayed at home with her family and no gone back to his home," a source close to the family said.

Another relative, who asked not to be identified, said rumor had been spread in the community that Taghrid was guilty of immoral acts, like prostitution. But the real issue of family honor in this case was related to the infidelity, he said. "All of Taghrid's brother had been security detainees. He husband was indeed a collaborator, and had impersonated Taghrid's brother Nabil when interrogating Palestinians. That put Nabil under suspicion as a collaborator."

But the family felt it could not get back at Diyab directly, the relative said. "He had too much backing. There's an expression in Arabic: 'If you can't kill a man, riding on a donkey, kill the donkey.' Taghrid was the donkey."

Women: Police didn't protect us at protest against violence

ONE week after the "family honor" killing of Ichlas Bassam on July 8, a protest against the murder was held in her home village of Rama.

"There were about 60 to 70 women at the demonstration. No women from Rama came," says Nawal Assis. "They were threatened, and told not to go by their families. There were weapons there [Druse men serve in the IDF, Border Police and police] and people were afraid. Only one Druse woman came. From another village."

Assis, head of Al Fanar, an organization that fights "family honor" killings, says there were about 30 men protesting against the demonstrators, and that those in the organized demonstration were refused police protection. "When they [the men] went to get weapons, I told the women to disperse, and to get on the bus," she says.

The Israel Women's Network has lodged a complaint with Police Minister Moshe Shahal over the demonstration; so has a member of Al Fanar, and legal proceedings are under way, according to Karmiel police commander Victor Ma'or. But his description of the events surrounding the protest and that of the women who came by bus to protest differ markedly. According to Assis, the women were told by police that their demonstration was illegal and the demonstrators were refused police

protection. "Why didn't they tell the men, 'Go home, don't harass them'?" she asks.

Another protester, Janan Abdu Machol, a social worker with Woman to Woman in Haifa, says many different organizations were represented, such as Al Fanar, Women Against Violence (of Nazareth), the Haifa Rape Crisis Center, Woman to Woman, and the Movement for Equality.

Abdu Machol says the demonstration in Rama was originally planned to be held in the middle of the village. After consulting the police, organizers decided to change the location to the entrance of the village. Abdu Machol adds that she spoke to the Karmiel police to ensure police protection at the village, as did her husband, Ameer, a founder of the Movement for Equality.

"Hassan Jabarin, a lawyer with the Association for Civil Rights, also spoke to the police to make sure they would be there," she says. "He was a neutral third party."

According to Abdu Machol, the demonstrators arrived at the village at noon and were confronted by about 70 young men, and no

police presence. "At 12:15, three policemen showed up, and I personally asked one to help us. I spoke to him in Hebrew, and then he told me to go away in Arabic, using a very nasty term."

"Then I knew what I was dealing with," she says.


The men from the village literally fell upon us, and were hitting us. One policeman was hit and he went to call for more police. Then seven policemen came and arrests were made," she says. Abdu Machol says that five demonstrators were arrested.

Police commander Maor says more than 50 demonstrators turned up. "I was told there would not be more than 20 to 30 people there. For this kind of gathering you do not need a permit," he says.

Maor says he was told the protesters would be in the village at 10 a.m. and he was there with 20

policemen at that hour. Maor says he and the others waited till noon and he released his men. "It seems, and I emphasize 'seems,' that the group decided to eat in a restaurant in the village and only at noon decided to demonstrate," he says.

Abdu Machol, who was one of the women held by police, says she was taken to the Karmiel police station and not interrogated until 7 or 8 p.m., and that charges might be lodged against her for participating in an illegal demonstration. L.R.C.



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August 1944: Miracle on the Seine

Fifty years ago, Paris escaped almost certain destruction. Dominique Lapiere writes that the man who was to give the order had a change of heart.

FOR the three and a half million inhabitants of Paris, it was the most extraordinary of all miracles: World War II, which had caused so much death and ruin, had spared their city. As the final hour of the liberation drew near, Paris survived the most destructive war in history unscathed. During the 52 months of its occupation by the Nazis, the city had suffered much suffering. But it had not lost its face or its soul.

That summer, Parisians stayed home. The war was raging on French soil and Paris was one of the few cities in the world that was able to leave for the traditional country vacation. Most schools were open. Thousands sunbathed along the quays of the Seine which had become the world's largest swimming pool. Bicycles and horsecars ruled the streets. There were no buses or taxis. The metro closed from 11 to 3 every weekday and all weekend. Because the city was practically without gas and electricity, housewives had learned to do without. They had learned to cook their families' sparse food over makeshift tin stoves fueled with paper balls.

Paris was hungry. To fight against the lack of food, the city had become one big country village which woke up each morning to the crowing of roosters. They called out the dawn from bathtubs, broom closets, rooftop pens, garrets, spare rooms. Like many of my school-friends, I raised rabbits on our apartment's balcony. To feed them, I crept out every morning before school to chop a few forbidden blades of grass in the nearby public parks.

A new white-and-black wooden sign had sprouted that summer at the main intersections of the city. "Zur Normandie Front," it said. But that direction wasn't too popular among the Germans still in Paris. Most of the military command vehicles which came through Paris were in fact going the other way. Our favorite game after school was to rush to post ourselves along the routes of these convoys and count the various vehicles which composed this formidable withdrawal. There were even camouflaged cars drawn by horses. Some trucks were also taking away the military personnel who had occupied Paris during four years.

Standing on the platforms, the "souris grises" — because of their drab gray uniforms, the Parisians had nicknamed the German WACS "the gray mice" — were crying and waving handkerchiefs. Some men were shouting that they would be back for Christmas.

A few French collaborators were also among those leaving. One day, I saw the grocer of our street climb into one of the trucks. During the whole occupation, she had served — in priority and without ration cards — the German soldiers living in our neighborhood.

But the most astonishing sight of all was the stream of loot flowing out with the departing occupiers. Paris was being emptied by the truckloads of bathtubs, bidets, rugs, telephones, radio cases, furniture. The Germans burned what they couldn't take with them. The sky of the city soon became black with the

smoke of the fires which spread the ashes of tons of archives and documents. For the population of the French capital, this intense activity was a sign of the imminent departure of all German forces still in their city. Soon, French and Allied flags began to appear at the windows of apartment buildings. This premature manifestation unleashed the wrath of the occupiers. Innocent citizens were executed. The patriots launched, on August 19, an armed insurrection to liberate their capital and discovered that Nazi soldiers were still very much present in the city.

French partisans were not aware that some 1,300 km to the East, in his "Wolf's Lair" bunker headquarters in East Prussia, Hitler had just announced his decision to defend Paris and reduce the city, if necessary, to "a pile of ruins."

Twenty years later, as I began research with Larry Collins for our book, *Is Paris Burning?*, I met the man to whom Hitler had, on August 7, 1944, thrust the mission to execute his ghastly decision. The career of Prussian General Dietrich von Choltitz — who, when I spoke with him, was a retiree living in a modest three-room apartment in Baden-Baden — was enough to justify Hitler's confidence. He had been the executioner of Rotterdam in 1940 and the butcher of Sebastopol two years later.

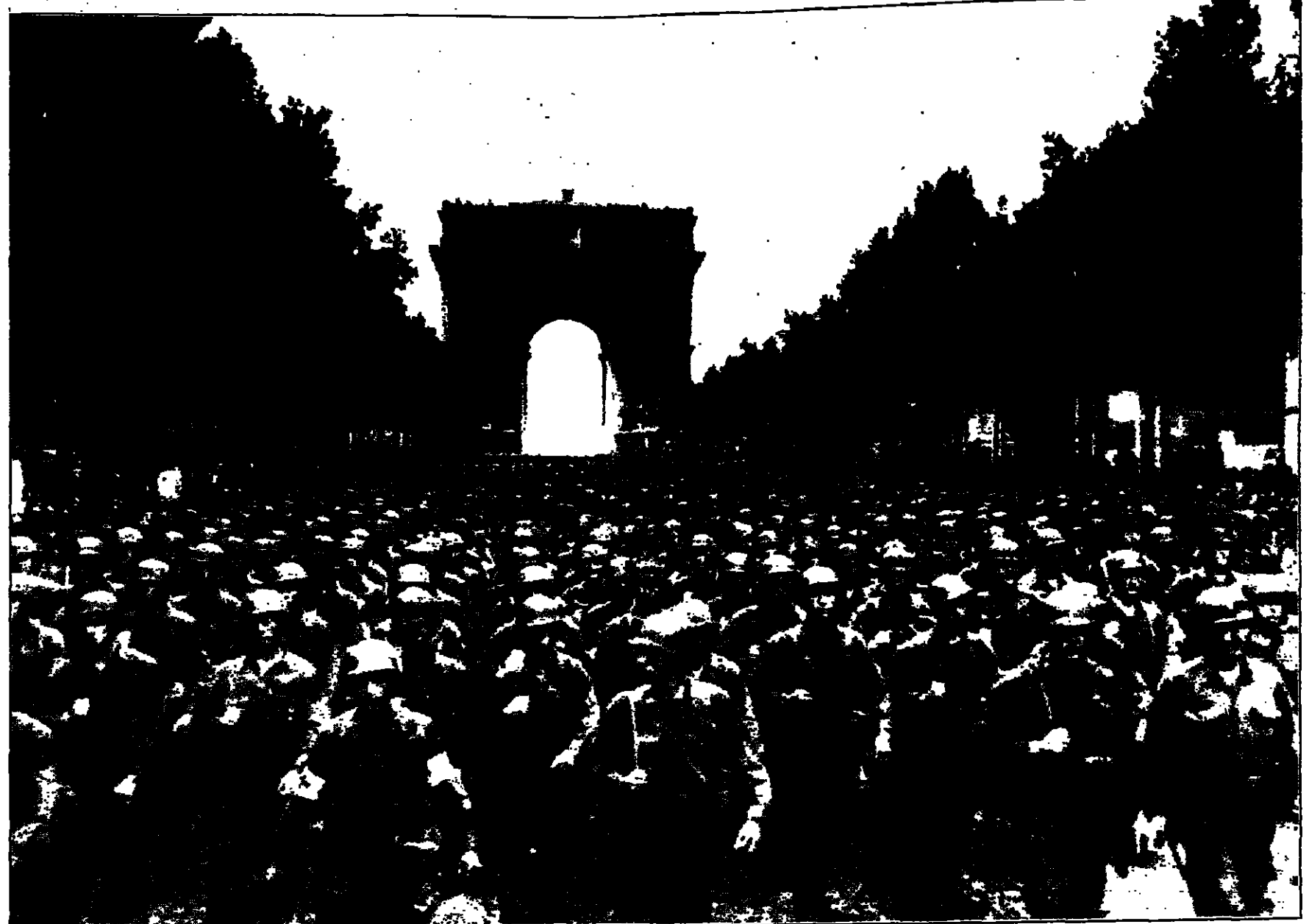
To enable von Choltitz to fulfill his mission in Paris, Hitler had given him the widest possible range of powers. He would command Paris as though it were a besieged fortress. "You will," Hitler had told him, "receive from me all the support you need." This was no vain promise.

We discovered that the German High Command had sent von Choltitz artillery reinforcements and demolition units to accomplish the mission of blowing up the 45 Paris bridges over the Seine and a whole set of industrial objectives in and around the city. There were orders to rush to Paris two armored SS divisions, the 26th and 27th Panzer, as well as the mortar named Karl, a terrifying weapon which von Choltitz had used to smash Sebastopol.

If the Allies didn't change their plans to bypass Paris, if they didn't rush to its rescue, the French capital was likely to experience hell.

Why didn't it? There are probably many answers. One of the most interesting comes from a careful analysis of the personality of von Choltitz during the summer of 1944. The conqueror of Rotterdam and Sebastopol had just arrived from Normandy where he had witnessed the annihilation of his troops under a deluge of fire from Allied guns and planes.

During his short encounter with Hitler, he was confronted by a man more than ever a prisoner of his megalomania. Sure enough, Hitler had jumped out of his box like the devil to promise his visitor the final victory. But in the depth of his artificially lit bunker, his raucous barking voice, which had galvanized and terrorized hundreds of millions of people, was that day no more than a surrealistic growl. Von Choltitz had come to



US soldiers march along the Champs Elysees with the Arc de Triomphe behind them in August 1944 during a liberation parade in Paris. (AP)

meet a leader. He had found a lunatic. This deception was to play a big role in his behavior.

Of all the scenes we patiently reconstituted, one of the most significant took place during the morning of Wednesday, August 16, 1944. The mayor of Paris, Pierre Taittinger, had received some alarming reports that the Germans had begun to mine the bridges and a number of monuments of the city, such as the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and the Eiffel Tower.

He telephoned the Hotel Meurice, where the commander of the "Gross Paris" had his headquarters, to request an urgent meeting with Gen. von Choltitz.

As the Frenchman was trying to convince the Prussian general to spare his city, von Choltitz, who suffered from asthma, was suddenly shaken with a fit of coughing. Half choking, he got up and pushed his visitor towards the balcony of his office. The fabulous panorama which sprawled before them provided Pierre Taittinger all the arguments he needed. The mayor raised his arm toward the towers of Notre Dame, the spire of the Sainte Chapelle, the sculptured facades of the Louvre, the golden dome of Les Invalides, the elegant silhouette of the Eiffel Tower.

"Often," he said, "it is given to a general to destroy, rarely to preserve. Imagine that, one day, it may be given to you to stand on this balcony again, as a tourist, to look once more on these monuments to our joys, our sufferings and to be able to say: 'One day I could have destroyed all this, and I preserved it as a gift for humanity. General, is not that worth all a conqueror's glory?'"

Von Choltitz remained silent for a long moment. Then he turned to the mayor of Paris, his voice softer now. "You are a good advocate for Paris, Mr. Taittinger," he said. "You have done your duty well. And likewise I, as a German general, must do mine."

The day before this meeting, after having conducted an inspection of his forces, the commander of the Gross Paris had asked his chauffeur to drive him to the Champs Elysees for a surprising pur-

pose. He had entered the famous tailor Knize to buy a heavy civilian winter overcoat. I had found the bill for this strange purchase in the papers of his former secretary who had retired in Munich.

We pressed von Choltitz to tell us why he had made such an acquisition in the middle of a torrid summer. He pondered for a long time. "I knew that the winter which was to follow was going to be a very cold one," he finally said. Uberta von Choltitz, the general's wife, showed us with pride this overcoat that she had piously preserved. The label "Knize — Men's tailor — Paris, London, Berlin," bearing the name of Gen. Dietrich von Choltitz and the date August 15, 1944, was still on the inside pocket.

This anecdote is a revealing indication of what von Choltitz's psychological attitude was. In the depth of his conscience, he had already chosen the course of action he was going to take at the moment of truth. Unless his reinforcements reached his command before the entry of Allied troops, he would not execute Hitler's destruction orders and perish with his soldiers in a final holocaust.

IT WAS in a plush villa on the shore of Tegernsee Lake, outside Munich, that I met the man who was to provide the title of our book. In August 1944, Gen. Walter Warlimont had been the deputy chief of staff of the OKW, the general staff of the Wehrmacht. This position enabled him to take part in the two daily strategic conferences that Hitler held in his Wolf's Lair.

Warlimont had regularly transcribed in his diary an account of the events which took place during these crucial days. For August 25, 1944, I read the following lines: "It was a little after 1 p.m. when the conference began... the operations report of Army Group B for the morning of August 25 was sprawled before the Führer. It said that the Allied forces had reached the very center of Paris. Hitler immediately exploded in one of those bursts of anger which are becoming more and more frequent. He shouted that it was inconceivable that the enemy could have entered into the

city with such ease.... He screamed that he had given all the necessary orders for the city to be destroyed. He suddenly turned to Jodi [his chief of staff] and asked: 'Have these orders been executed?' Jodi, is Paris burning?"

Hitler would not receive an answer to his terrifying question. All telephone and radio communications with Paris were interrupted. For a very good reason: the tanks of de Gaulle's Free French Second Armored Division and the soldiers of the US Fourth Infantry Division had just liberated Paris after some very tough fighting. At the very instant Hitler asked his question, French assault troops were capturing, in the Hotel Meurice, von Choltitz himself and his whole headquarters staff. The German general offered no resistance to signing the unconditional surrender of the Gross Paris.

Everywhere, reveling crowds had begun to invade the streets and the avenues to acclaim their liberators. I had managed to escape my parents' vigilance to run to the Champs Elysees. An American tank with a big white star painted on its flank had just stopped in front of the Grand Palais. I saw a blond giant, his fatigues all covered with grease and dust, emerge from the turret. My first American! I was submerged with happiness and emotion. I began to run toward him. I wanted to tell him our joy, our gratitude, our love.

But as I was running, I suddenly realized that I wouldn't know what to say to him, because I didn't speak any English. In my school, we had been forced to learn German during the war. I suddenly remembered I did know at least two words in the language of Shakespeare. I shouted to him: "Corned beef!"

He burst out laughing, climbed into his tank and disappeared inside to emerge immediately with a huge box of corned beef which he presented me as the most glorious of all trophies. And what a trophy it was indeed for a young Parisian schoolboy who had not seen the color of meat for months.

That summer, there was a popular joke in Paris which said that the meat ration of the population had gotten so

small that it could be entirely wrapped in a subway ticket — provided the ticket had not been punched, in which case the meat would fall out through the hole.

The following day, Saturday, August 26, the most fantastic spectacle filled my schoolboy eyes: the triumphant parade of the Liberation on the Champs Elysees, led by the proud and tall silhouette of Charles de Gaulle, the man whose voice we had heard during four years, without ever seeing his face.

All along the world's most beautiful avenue, there was an ocean of two million cheering people. Crowds lined the rooftops, windows, balconies, trees, lampposts, packed the sidewalks, screamed de Gaulle's name as he walked by. Little girls ducked out to hand him bouquets which he passed back to the men behind him. A whole city was pouring out its love for the man who had been the incarnation of hope, the symbol of eventual victory during 52 months of Nazi tyranny.

But no joy is untrammelled. As the parade turned out of the Champs Elysees onto the Place de la Concorde, a shot rang out. At the sound, heavy gunfire started all over the big square. Thousands of people fell to the pavement to seek shelter. My mother pushed me under a half track. Somebody in the crowd screamed, "It is the fifth column!" The officer of a tank immediately aimed his gun at the beautiful columns of the Hotel Crillon, counted to five and opened fire. The fifth column of the Hotel Crillon exploded in a cloud of dust and fell to the sidewalk.

That night, on the turret of his tank, a young GI by the name of Irwin Shaw wrote a letter to his mother. Maybe the words of this young man, who would become a famous writer, summed up the unique day that he had lived. "Mother," he wrote, "the war should end tonight. Parisian Dominique Lapiere, who was 13 when the city was liberated, coauthored *Is Paris Burning?* and *O Jerusalem with Larry Collins*. He is also the author of *The City of Joy, about destitute people of Calcutta, and is the founder of Action Aid for Child Lepers of Calcutta, 26 Avenue Kleber, Paris 75116, France.*

Liberator traveled a long road of pain

Norbert Krieser recalls his passage from refugee to undesirable alien, from forced laborer to fighter with the Free French Army

FIFTY years ago this week, as a member of the 2nd Armored Division of Gen. Leclerc's Free French, attached to General Patton's 3rd US Army, I participated in the Liberation of Paris.

Five years earlier, in March 1939, I had arrived in France as an Austrian-Jewish refugee, having come illegally from a refugee camp near the German border at Schaffhausen, in search of my mother, who had been hospitalized "somewhere in France."

The authorities sent me to a refugee camp maintained by the Joint Distribution Committee and supervised by an Interior Ministry staffer named Boulet and his wife in Martigny-les-Bains in the Vosges region. It was there that the surviving passengers of the ill-fated *St. Louis* had found temporary shelter.

By the summer of that year it had become clear that war was imminent.

The population of our camp consisted of Czechoslovaks, Germans, Austrians and a few Poles, all Jews and Nazi victims.

We felt deep gratitude to France for having taken us in. All the young men sent letters to the Interior Ministry, volunteering our services in the ranks of the armed forces, should war break out.

On the evening of September 1, Boulet assembled us all for a very important announcement: "Germany has declared war."

All men of military age who volunteered for active service will leave in the morning by train. Do not burden yourselves with unnecessary luggage. In the army you'll be provided with all you'll need.

"In a few days, the women and children, as well as the elderly, will be transferred to Argenteuil near Paris, where they'll be much more comfortable."

The next morning, we traveled by train to what looked like an abandoned flour mill, surrounded by barbed wire. It did not take long before our suspicions were confirmed.

We were soon addressed by an officer who informed us that we were all undesirable aliens from countries that were at war with France.

As such we were to be interned till the end of the war. "But don't worry," M. Daladier, the minister of war, said you'll all be home by Christmas."

Our protestations that we were war volunteers were met with boisterous laughter.

In January 1940, after Daladier's deadline had passed, a commission arrived, proposing five-year contracts in the French Foreign Legion and instant release, to which we replied that not having murdered our mothers, we did not qualify.

In February, the same commission returned with a modification of the terms: service with the Foreign Legion for the duration of the war in exchange for the immediate release of all our interned relatives. Four days later, on February 9, 1940, I was in Nantes at my

mother's bedside, on my way to the Legion's Marseilles depot. It was the last time I saw my mother, who in 1942 was deported to Drancy and from there to Auschwitz, never to return.

France's debacle found me with malaria in a hospital in Ouzarazat, in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. The Legion transported me in an open vehicle across to El Hajeb near Meknes in the east, where all the Jews were discharged, registered as foreign labor and sent to Bou Arfa in the Moroccan desert to build the Mediterranean-Niger railroad in an area marked on maps of that period as "a zone forbidden to white men."

This was the brainchild and pet project of Adm. Jean-Louis Darlan, Vichy France's deputy to president Philippe Petain and president Roosevelt's favorite Frenchman.

Instead of being formally discharged from the Legion, we were given a new identity: the Ninth Group of Foreign Laborers.

We had to reduce boulders to gravel, using primitive tools for six hours a day in the broiling sun without shade, adequate water, proper food or medical care. Each one of us had to dig his own shelter from the sun in the sand. Our food rations were such that I developed scurvy.

Our supervisors were Legion

NCOs who had been discharged after the fall of France and were awaiting their repatriation.

There were labor camps all over Morocco. One day I was transferred to a camp at Jerada, south of Oujda, where there was a coal mine which had been closed in 1912. It was reopened, and Arabs and Jews were employed there.

I had to work with a 25-kilo pneumatic drill in a coal vein 80 centimeters high; lying flat on my back I cleared what I had extracted with a short-handled shovel across my chest onto a chute. The only warnings we had of cave-ins were rats fleeing each rumble.

I was lucky; when an epidemic of typhus broke out, I caught it, in addition to the malaria, scurvy and tuberculosis I'd already contracted. The air force officer commanding our camp decided I was only malingering. But the Almighty saw me through.

I had never been a practicing Jew, but the following Yom Kippur I organized a strike. It did not take the camp administration long to make my comrades disclose who had organized it, and I was sent to the notorious reprisal camp of Ain-El-Ouak in the mountains, where the Goumiers — camouflaged desert police — reigned supreme, assisted by German ex-NCOs.

The initiation involved standing in a grave-like hole half filled with

water. At night, new prisoners were not permitted to get out — or even raise their heads. Those who did were shot at by guards trying to fire dum dum bullets between the prisoners' legs without hitting them. They were not always successful. When, after my initiation, I was sent for work assignment, I was given the job of sewing the remains of the "missed hits" into sacks.

In time, I succeeded in escaping and reached Gen. Leclerc. My officer was Jacques Massu (who later acquired notoriety in Algeria and was involved in the 1956 Suez Campaign). But even the Free French were unwilling to believe my story.

In 1948, 10 years to the day since leaving home, I arrived at Haifa as a volunteer officer (in Mahal) — some people never learn — and did my fair share for the country and the IDF.

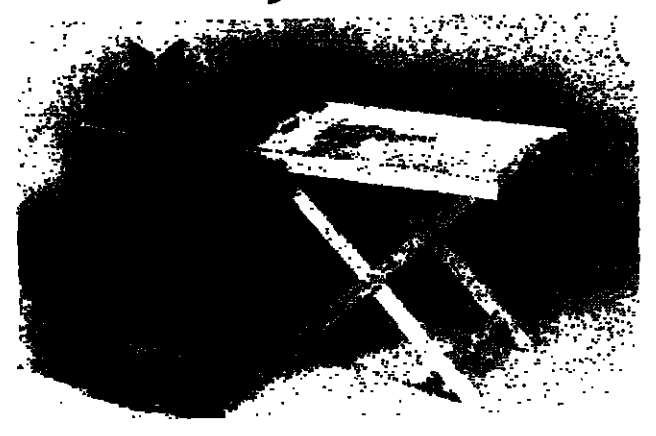
Eventually, I wrote to President Mitterrand, seeking compensation for my years of suffering in the forced labor camps, and got the presidential runaround.

Though his office promptly acknowledged that I had been forced into foreign labor status, I was awarded a yearly pension of some NIS 345 (ignoring health damage) because that was what I earned as a foreign laborer. But even this pittance failed to arrive regularly.

When I informed the French that I wished to cancel this "compensation," I was informed that I could not do so. No reason was given, but that was the last I ever heard from my grateful French well-wishers.

At least I've got my disabilities. Let I forget.

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Former BBC man reports like a PLO lobbyist

EYE ON THE MEDIA
DAVID BAR-ILLAN

THE September issue of the BBC's World Service magazine *Worldwide* – a sumptuous radio/TV guide sprinkled with lightweight articles – features stories on Madonna, the new power of women, the daily risks of living, death and burial customs in five countries, and similar fare of general interest. Most of the stories serve as previews of programs scheduled for broadcast during the month.

But, as numerous readers of this column have noticed, the issue also includes an article called "Squeezed Out of Jerusalem" by former BBC Middle East correspondent Tim Llewellyn, now a freelance writer and broadcaster. The piece is not only noxious but also raises disturbing questions about journalistic ethics.

The article recalls the kind of propaganda the Soviets used to plant in "friendly" publications through "useful idiots" among Western journalists. The only difference is that this time it is Arab propaganda which masquerades as a news story.

The subject, as the headline indicates, is Israeli "territorial possessiveness" which is "squeezing the Arabs out of Jerusalem." "It is not so much urbanisation, Judaisation or Westernisation as plain colonisation," says Llewellyn. Indeed, the description of Israeli expansion reads like pre-WWII horror tales about the "Yellow Peril," or KKK pamphlets of block-busting by Jews and blacks.

The Israeli strategy, says

Llewellyn, is "cutting up Arab communities and surrounding them." The suburb of Ramot is "creeping surely and steadily north, like an urban amoeba, towards the settlement of Givat Ze'ev, which is advancing down to meet it; another Israeli wedge encroaching into the Occupied Territories."

"The Israeli tactics are inexorable and crude," says Llewellyn. "The Israelis declare land as 'green belt,' refusing Palestinians permission to build on it for 'ecological' reasons but building on that land themselves." "About ten times as many apartments are built every year for the Jewish population as for Arabs." "Over and over again, Palestinians leave for the West Bank or for beyond, forfeiting or selling their land, finding themselves and their families hemmed in with no space to expand."

One is reminded of what Mary McCarthy said about Lillian Hellman: Even the "buts" and the "ands" in what she writes are lies. "Typical is the description of Neve Ya'acov as 'a new town and fortress [sic] started in 1967 as soon as Israel occupied the West Bank and annexed East Jerusalem.' Neve Ya'acov was a Jewish farm established in 1922, which had to be evacuated during the War of Independence. It was turned into a Jordanian army base in 1948 and rebuilt when Israelis returned after the 1967 war."

But to refute every transparent falsehood in Llewellyn's piece

would be a tiresome exercise. The plain fact is that the whole "squeezing out" thesis is a classic example of the Big Lie.

The only time the Arab population in Jerusalem dwindled was when it was under Jordanian rule (from 75,000 in 1961 to 65,000 in 1967). Under the expansionist, occupied Israelis it has increased dramatically, more than doubling by 1991. In fact, the Arab rate of growth has been slightly larger than that of the Jewish inhabitants.

A neglected population in 1967, the vast majority of which had no basic municipal services such as water, sewage and electricity, the Arab community now enjoys not only all these services, but also an unprecedented prosperity.

(One cannot help wondering if it is the Arabs who feel "hemmed in" by Jewish presence in their vicinity, or if the feeling is a projection of how Britons like Llewellyn would react to a Jewish "invasion" of their neighborhood.)

Llewellyn may not be old enough to miss the good old days of the Empire, but he has the unmistakable attitude of a patronizing colonialist longing for the quaint Orient. "This oriental enclave," he writes about the eastern part of the city, "is at grave risk. A tide of Israeli concrete laps at its boundaries... the character of a

unique city is being changed daily."

That Llewellyn relies solely on Arab sources, and does not even bother to pretend to get the Israeli side, is par for the course. Like so many foreign correspondents, BBC reporters have long ago abandoned all professional standards.

(Llewellyn uses only one Israeli quote, not – Heaven forbid – to rebut the Palestinian fiction, but to show that all Israelis, even Laborites, are bad. "I refuse to accept the concept of East Jerusalem," says Minister of Housing Benjamin Ben-Eliezer. "There is just one Jerusalem." Here, one pauses to recollect that this man is a Labor Minister, from the Party of Peace.)

Nor is it unusual for BBC correspondents to display arrogant ignorance by uttering such nonsense as "All this [the Israeli] building in Jerusalem] violates... the Geneva Convention, relating to civilian populations in time of war, and the spirit that should inform a proper Middle East settlement."

But those who care about journalistic ethics must wonder about an arrangement which enables Llewellyn to write pieces indistinguishable from straight propaganda tracts and sell them to his former employer.

It recalls the practice – so

roundly and justly condemned by the media – of government officials turning into lobbyists. An official in, say, the US Department of Energy who during his tenure in government service favors OPEC and then leaves government to become an OPEC lobbyist is not usually considered a paragon of professional integrity.

It is difficult to escape the suspicion that throughout his time in government he was thinking of the lobbying job awaiting him.

AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
Mr. Delano Lewis
President
National Public Radio
635 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Del:

I was reassured by the statement in your June 3 letter that "if we make a mistake we correct it as soon as possible." I agree that this kind of self-monitoring is important to you and your listeners.

Could you send me a list of any corrections NPR has made in the last year – large or small – related to Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Thank you.
Yours truly,
Carol Greenwald

Carol Greenwald
Potomac Investment Company,
7200 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 705
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Carol,
Please forgive my tardy reply to your letter of June 14, 1994. My travels have not allowed me to keep as current as I would like on my correspondence.

I read your request for a list of corrections NPR has made in the last year – large or small – related to Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict. While we continue to monitor our broadcasts for balance and issue corrections immediately when appropriate, we have not prepared lists of corrections over time.

To review archived programs in order to prepare a list retroactively – if any corrections were made – would require considerable staff time. It is my judgement that this would not be a wise use of our resources.

Yours truly,
Delano E. Lewis
President

(Needless to say, not one correction, retraction or apology relating to Israel has been made on NPR radio in the past few years. D. B.)

THE WISDOM OF CHAIRMAN

TURNER
CNN owner Ted Turner didn't get to be Jane Fonda's husband for nothing. As sponsor of the Goodwill Games in St. Peters-

burg, he tried to convince Washington Post correspondent Patrick Tracey that things were relatively smooth in Russia, or – more exactly – that even the competing Olympics can have problems. "Turner characterized the multi-sport competition [in St. Petersburg] as 'a smash success,'" writes Tracey. "Glitches? There's glitches in the Olympics too. I mean, how many glitches did the Israelis have in Munich?"

NOT-SO-MAGNIFICENT

OBSESSION
This is how the AP report on the bus accident on Sunday ended: "Traffic accidents are fairly frequent on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Occasionally crashes turn out to be attacks. The last one was five years ago when a Palestinian passenger grabbed a steering wheel, forcing a bus from Tel Aviv into a ravine, killing 14 people and wounding 27."

As Jerusalem Post sub-editor Brian Freeman has suggested, to be consistent AP should have concluded Monday's story about a traffic accident in Wenatchee, Wash., in which 11 were killed, with the following: "Traffic accidents are common in the United States. Sometimes they are the result of drive-by shootings by teenagers with nothing better to do than kill. The last such incident was two weeks ago, when a drive-by shooting killed three people in Los Angeles. Florida has also been dangerous for drivers, particularly for foreign tourists."

Lutherans against bigotry

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

ESCHYLUS HINTS in his *Agamemnon* that it is dangerous to be a bearer of bad news. The guard who comes to tell King Creon that someone has buried Polynices despite the king's order to the contrary, says: "My mind kept saying many things to me: 'Why go where you will surely pay the price?' (lines 228-229 of the Elizabethan Wyckoff translation). In any event, 'No-body likes the bringer of bad news' (line 277)."

George Bernard Shaw, with his characteristic perverseness, considered it unhealthy to be a bearer of good news. In his *Caesar and Cleopatra*, the Egyptian commander Belshazzar tells the Persian messenger:

"O barbarous Persian, hear my instruction. In Egypt the bearer of good tidings is sacrificed to the gods as a 'thank offering'; but no god will accept the blood of the messenger of evil. When we have good tidings, we are careful to send them in the mouth of the cheapest slave we can find..."

I hope I won't be "sacrificed to the gods" or denied if I bring some good news, though our disaster-seekers and injustice-collectors may not like it. For some reason this event, which occurred four months ago and is good for decency and for the Jews, went virtually unnoticed here.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), whose 11,087 churches and 5,240,739 worshipers constitute 62 percent of the membership of all Lutheran denominations in the US (according to the 1993 *World Almanac*), has gone even further than the Vatican in renouncing the Lutheran antisemitic legacy.

Last April 18, the ELCA Church Council issued a declaration acknowledging "with pain" church founder Martin Luther's "anti-Judaic diatribes and violent recommendations of his later writings against the Jews."

The declaration opens: "In the long history of Christianity there exists no more tragic development than the treatment accorded the Jewish people on the part of Christian believers... Lutherans belonging to the Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America feel a special burden in this regard because of certain elements in [Luther's] legacy... and the catastrophes, including the Holocaust of the twentieth century, suffered by Jews in places where the Lutheran churches were strongly represented."

The declaration goes on to say: "As did many of Luther's own companions in the sixteenth cen-

tury, we reject this violent invective, and yet more do we express our deep and abiding sorrow over its tragic effects on subsequent generations. In concert with the Lutheran World Federation, we particularly deplore the appropriation of Luther's words by modern antisemites for the teaching of hatred toward Judaism or toward the Jewish people in our day."

The ELCA recognizes "in antisemitism a contradiction and an affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling," and pledges the church "to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us."

"I am especially pleased to bring this to your attention because it enables me to atone for having maligned the ELCA some time ago. On the basis of misinformation given me in Wisconsin by a minister of that denomination, who had compared Israelis to the Nazis after spending a few days here visiting 'refugee' camps, I once characterized the ELCA as being of a left-wing, 'liberationist' bent."

(With thanks to Moshe Aumann of Jerusalem, editor of the quarterly *Christians and Israel*, for providing me with the text of the declaration in the current issue of *C&I*. The bulletin is published by the Association of Christians and Jews in Israel.)

THE ELCA declaration closes with a prayer to which, in view of the threats of Islamic and secularist fundamentalism, we all ought to say, Amen.

It says: "Finally, we pray for the continued blessing of the Blessed One upon the increasing cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community."

I not only say, Amen; I also add my own prayer for increasing our Jewish community's, particularly our government ministries', understanding of Israel's and the Jewish people's Christian friends and active allies.

Many Christians live and work here in various professional or voluntary capacities, many of them specifically in promoting Israel's cause, and nearly all of them in connection with international organizations. They continue to undergo unexplained and inexplicable harassment when the time comes for them to renew their visitors' or temporary residents' visas. This seems to be the special lot of

our friends. Some of those less sympathetic to our cause seem to enjoy a "hands off" status.

TO COME back to the ELCA declaration – and, for that matter, to the Vatican's lumbering steps to make amends for the Roman Church's record on the Jews and Judaism: We await a hint, the slightest hint, in a similar direction from an Islamic authority or from any authoritative Arab voice regarding the Islamic/Arab record on the Jews and Judaism, especially in the past century.

A COMMON argument of members of our "peace camp" in discussions with religious Jews opposing the present "territories for peace" policy is that this cannot be decided on doctrinal grounds, but only on the basis of the judgment of military and political experts. They cite the opinions of Rabbis Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Ovadia Yosef, and others, who compare the situation to one that involves saving a sick person's life, when we don't ask the rabbi and check Scripture, but ask the doctor and check the medical records.

Last week, our senior-ranking expert on military-strategic matters, Chief of General Staff Ehud Barak, said we must stay on the Golan Heights even in the event of peace with Syria.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, whose expertise does not, to the best of my knowledge, lie in the military-strategic area, retorted that there will be no peace with Syria without drastic concessions by us on the Golan.

The real question is what kind of peace a Golan withdrawal will buy us with Syria. We are not yet in that messianic New Middle East era in which we can afford to experiment – and err.

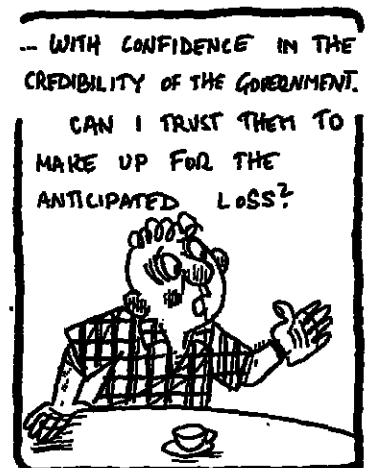
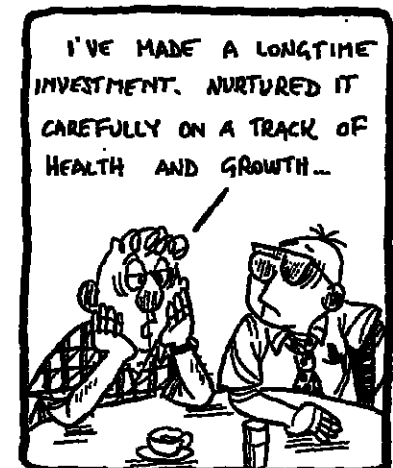
To return to the medical analogy: even if the doctor says the patient may fast on Yom Kippur, but the patient feels he must eat or drink, he may break the fast.

So perhaps the thing for Yitzhak Rabin to do is call an election now and see what we, the "patient"/electorate, say.

YESHAYAHU Leibowitz was revered by many as a teacher and commentator on Judaism and Jewish texts. But I believe his merits as such were nullified by his unbridled vilification of institutions and causes with which he disagreed, especially his characterization of the Israel Defense Forces as "Judeo-Nazis" and his virtual sanctioning of civil war.

Those were not the only sins of his tongue, but perhaps the most unforgivable ones.

SRULIK



Destroy Amalek, support the poor

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"When you have made an end of tithing all the tithes of your produce in the third year... and have given it to the Levite, and to the foreigner, orphan and widow so that they may eat their fill in your settlements..." (Deut. 26:12.)

THE bringing of the first fruits, which opens this week's portion of *Ki Tavo*, follows the obligation to destroy our arch-enemy Amalek, which closed last week's portion.

The relationship between these two passages always seemed tenuous to me, but two unusual weddings in which I was involved – one a mass celebration of 10 couples from the former Soviet Union, and the second a Moslem ceremony between the son of a local mukhtar and the daughter of a Bethlehem businessman – highlighted the extent to which the light of one portion illuminates the other.

Ki Tavo commands Israelites to bring the produce of the first fruits to the site of the future Holy Temple and to recount the story of ancient Israel: Jacob was a wandering Aramean with children enslaved by Egyptian taskmasters.

Our early history taught us to act with largesse and sensitivity, especially toward the "weaker vessels" of society. Our existence has to do with the creation of a just society acting with compassion and walking in the ways of God.

Opposed to this dream of universal justice stand the forces of Laban, Esau, Pharaoh and Balak. But all pale against the brutality of Amalek, who attacked the old, weak and infirm of Israel because he had no fear of God.

The collision between Amalek

and Israel began by accident. Amalek happened to come upon the Israelites. There was no battle plan, no claim against us for land or water rights. Amalek wasn't hunting for slaves or battling against our ideology.

There was no reason for the attack – except to destroy someone who was powerless and defenseless.

Had ideology, no matter how twisted, been associated with Amalek's hate, one could perhaps understand the fanaticism and attempt to deal with it. But when evil is based on nothing but the sheer thrill of destruction, then there is no well-timed challenge.

Amalek kills simply because he can. The sight of blood is tantalizing to his eyes and screams of terror are music to his ears. Amalek is the polar opposite of everything the Torah celebrates as human.

How are we to wipe out his memory?

In addition to destroying such evil, we must extirpate his ways. After arriving in and conquering the land which God has promised us, we farm the fields. Growing food becomes the means by which we serve God as we bring the miracle of the annual harvest to its priests.

But our requirements are not just ritualistic. We must remember – especially in times of plenty – the pain of slavery. It is our divine duty to set apart produce for the poor, the foreigner, the widow and the orphan, so that they too can live. The people we

are commanded to help are precisely those whom Amalek attacked – the poorest, frailest, least able to defend themselves.

Just as Amalek represents evil incarnate, Israel must become good incarnate. This is why the command to feed the poor follows the command to destroy Amalek's memory.

I first understood this connection on the 15th of Av, a popular date for marriages. Ten Russian couples were getting married in Efrat. The grooms and brides were of all ages, even grandparents who had been living together for many years but who, because of the anti-religion laws in the USSR, had never stood beneath a wedding canopy to repeat the age-old blessings.

Old people were crying happily, music played, and there was food and dancing.

These 10 Jewish marriages represented the downfall – the blotting out of the memory – of a communist empire which had wantonly destroyed millions.

Like Amalek, the Soviet regime "had no fear of God." On the contrary, one of its reasons d'être was to destroy people's faith in One Creator and the notion of compassion and humanity in its gulags and Siberian exiles.

THE FOLLOWING afternoon, in the nearby village of Wadi Nis, I, along with a dozen other Efratians, attended the marriage of the mukhtar's son. Originally scheduled a week earlier, the ceremony was postponed when the mukhtar

realized that the original date would have come out just prior to Tisha be'Av.

Since the citizens of Efrat and Wadi Nis pride themselves on their good relationships, it was important that the rabbi of the neighboring town be able to attend. I was asked to bless the new couple. I danced with the mukhtar.

I couldn't help thinking that although our two nations still don't trust each other, and we must insist upon the inalienable right of all Israeli citizens to live in their homes in security and dignity, we dare not forget the message of our Sages, which is based on the biblical injunction of the first fruits and applies to every Arab willing to live peacefully with us: "Beloved is the human being, created in the Divine image." (*Mishna Avot* 3:18.)

It is upon the Israelite to sustain the poor of the Gentiles together with the poor of Israel, to visit the sick of the Gentiles together with the sick of Israel, to bury the dead of the Gentiles together with the dead of Israel for the sake of peace." (*B.T. Gittin* 61a.)

When true peace finally comes and the Palestinians tell their tales, they will have to acknowledge that, even during the worst moments of the intifada, Israeli doctors were tending their sick, maimed and poor. We never turned our backs on them.

We have every right to enjoy the fruits of our land. But at the same time we dare never forget our humble origins and the obligation upon us to help all those less fortunate than ourselves. Only then will the memory of Amalek truly be erased.

Shabbat Shalom

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Ministry of Education and Culture
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New immigrants who have not yet registered and do not have a referral from the Ministry of Absorption should apply to the nearest branch of the Ministry of Absorption to arrange for registration and a referral.

New immigrants who have attended an ulpan in the past without completing the course of studies are also invited to register at an ulpan.

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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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A building giant goes on the block

Last night's bidding deadline is another step in the slow, but sure, privatization of Shikun Ufituach, Galit Lipkis Beck reports

BIDS closed last night for a controlling stake in Shikun Ufituach, the giant state-owned construction company that controls about 7% of the sector. Most of the leading players in the local real estate and construction industries are likely to have submitted bids.

More than 20 different investors, individuals and consortia, have bought the forms needed to bid for control of the company. They may not all meet government criteria, and they may not stay in the competition once they are privy to more information about the company's business.

The Government Companies Authority (GCA), charged with privatizing state-owned nonbanking companies, is looking to sell the government's entire 100% interest but if unsuccessful, it will look to sell 52 to 74% of the shares.

"The government does not want to be left with less than 26% of the equity. You can't do much more than order coffee with less than 26% of a company's equity," says a source close to one of the bidders.

Shikun Ufituach not only builds and renovates housing, but also undertakes building maintenance and is active in infrastructure and commercial development.

Amnon Safran, managing director of Shikun Ufituach, says the company currently operates strictly according to business criteria despite its government ownership.

"In my time [one and a half years] the government has not interfered in the company's ongoing activities, but labor regulations and the law have imposed restrictions," says Safran. "A government-owned company is subject to many limitations. For example, we need government approval to set up subsidiaries, acquire companies and the government is responsible for salary issues. The company is also required to operate according to the tender law," says Safran.

Safran would like to see Shikun's new owners place a greater emphasis on company activities in the rental sector by developing and leasing buildings for housing, industrial and commercial use. Safran also recommends that the company focus on income-generating properties like hotels.

The company earned net profits of NIS 54.74m. for the first nine months of 1993 and NIS 36.55m. in all of 1992. Half of the land the company owns is in the center of the country, and most of that is in high-demand areas. According to data given to the Ministerial Committee for Privatization, the company's undeveloped plots are valued at \$300 million.

ACCORDING to Safran, Shikun Ufituach benefited from preferential government treatment in the 1950s and 1960s but since the end of the 1970s, it has received the same treatment as other building companies. Not all contractors agree with him.

Approximately six months ago the Ministry of Housing advised the Israel Lands Administration to authorize release of land for the construction of 132 housing units in Ramat Hasharon without publishing a tender. Not surprisingly, angry contractors demanded the Finance Minister cancel the deal. The contractors claimed it was unfair for a company on the verge of privatization to receive the plot, while private contractors must compete for such property through a tender.

The GCA has set out the precondition that groups bidding for Shikun Ufituach must have minimum shareholders' equity or market capitalization of \$40m.

Among the leading companies participating in a consortium made up of Africa Israel, businessman Eliezer Fishman, Dankner Investments and Diur. Bank Hapoalim is the Diur's parent company, and Bank Leumi controls Africa Israel.



Amnon Safran, managing director of Shikun Ufituach, would like the company to become more involved in building rental housing. (R. Erde)

Businessman Gad Ze'evi, through his company Mirage, plans to participate in the tender in partnership with contractor Uri Dori and United Mizrahi Bank's investment company. Mordchai Yona has set up a consortium with a Thai company.

While the privatization of Shikun Ufituach is now moving ahead, the pace has proved slower than government officials had hoped for. The government's plan to hold a NIS 930m. offering for the company on the TASE in March 1994 fell through. Due to poor market conditions, the underwriters—

Leumi and Co. Discount Underwriters, Hapoalim Capital Markets and Clal Issuing—backed out of the offering at the last minute, forcing the government to cancel it. The underwriters feared investors might not materialize in sufficient numbers, leaving them holding unsold shares.

The delay in privatization is not all the market's doing. Issues involving ownership and the government's future involvement in the company had to be resolved before the government was able seriously to move forward with its plans.

New accounts in old banks

Jordanian banks are reopening in the territories to meet the need for reliable commercial facilities, Lamia Lahoud writes

BEFORE 1967, several Jordanian banks did business in the territories and East Jerusalem. After the Six Day War, when Israel took over, they had to close. Now, after Israel's agreements with the Palestinians and Jordanians, Jordan's banks are beginning to reopen their doors in the territories and self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho.

The Bank of Jordan, the second largest Jordanian commercial bank, has been doing business in Ramallah and Nablus for the last two months. The two branches together claim 12,000 new accounts.

"There is a great demand for good, reliable commercial banks," says Yahiya Kadamani, the bank's representative in the territories.

The Nablus and Ramallah branches, which seem more modern and spacious than most Israeli banks, are completely computerized. Each employs around 50 locals. During the first two weeks, the bank witnessed a sudden influx of capital, according to manager Bassem Najjar.

"Nablus is the commercial center of the West Bank," he says. "Over the past six years, the Cairo Amman Bank was the only Arab bank to operate in the territories; but the services it offered were limited. We offer all the services of a commercial bank. Soon more Jordanian banks will open, and people will be able to choose the bank that suits their needs."

The biggest Jordanian bank is the Arab Bank, run by the Palestinian Shuman family. It is also planning to reopen in the territories and in Jerusalem, where it did business before 1967. So is Grindlays Bank, another commercial bank that had branches in the territories before 1967.

According to an agreement signed last December between the Bank of Israel and the Jordanian Central Bank, Jordanian banks can do business in the territories and are allowed to handle shekels under the supervision of the Bank of Israel. To do business in the autonomous areas, the banks need the approval of the Palestinian Authority, Kadamani says, adding that he has applied to the authority for a license to operate the Bank of Jordan in Gaza and Jericho too.

THE AUTHORITY has already licensed Kadamani and his group to open an Islamic bank in Gaza. The Bank of Israel refused to approve the Islamic bank in the territories handling shekels because it doesn't consider it a commercial bank, Kadamani says. The agreement between Israel and Jordan deals only with commercial banking.

Since Islam forbids charging interest, the Islamic bank will operate without charging interest, Kadamani explains.

"For example, say someone needs a loan to build a factory. Instead of giving him the loan and charging him 10 to 15 percent interest, we build the factory for him

and sell it to him in payments, for a price which includes the bank's interest charge."

According to Palestinian sources, the Palestinian Authority has opened some of its accounts at the Bank of Jordan in the territories. Also using the bank is the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development (PECARD), created to channel money from donor states for specific projects and to cover the authority's running costs.

Amin Haddad heads PECARD's department of aid coordination and is director of economic affairs in the Palestinian Authority. He says the Palestinians haven't given up on the idea of a Palestinian central bank or monetary authority. "We are using the commercial banks which serve our interests best and offer us the services we need," he says.

Haddad says the Israelis have agreed to the Palestinians' demand for a monetary authority. The implementation, he said, needs to be discussed in the Israeli-Palestinian joint economic committee. A monetary authority would have the same functions as a central bank—but that doesn't mean the Palestinians will demand their own currency at this time, Haddad says.

The issue of a Palestinian currency hasn't yet been agreed upon. It will be discussed with the Israelis in the joint economic committee, Haddad says, admitting that the Palestinians cannot yet support their own currency. But, Haddad stresses, they insist on their right to issue a currency whenever they feel they have enough reserves. Jordan, he recalls, also began with a monetary authority and no currency.

Samir Huleillah, director of trade in the Palestinian Authority and member of the joint economic committee, says the Palestinians and Israelis have agreed on the functions of the Palestinian Monetary Authority. These include supervision and licensing of banks in the autonomous areas and control of exchange rates. He says the Palestinians will base their transactions on shekels, Jordanian dinars and dollars.

Jordanian or other banks wishing to do business in Gaza and Jericho must apply to Zohbi Nashed, who holds the Palestinian finance portfolio. The banks no longer need a permit from the Bank of Israel to deal in shekels. Permits will now be obtained through the Palestinian Authority, which will also approve the banks' dealing in dollars and dinars.

Huleillah admits that no detailed economic agreement has yet been worked out between the Palestinians and Jordanians. There is only the outline of an agreement, based on free trade and movement. That was worked out in January and February, and the specifics still need to be discussed. But a Palestinian delegation visited Jordan this week to discuss a range of issues, including the economy.

Foreign investments jump in Northern Ireland

The British province has tried to overcome its violent image in a quest to attract business, Caroline Brothers reports

TELEVISION shots of gunmen, ruined buildings and car bombs have long tarnished Northern Ireland's image for foreign companies, persuading many that it was the last place on earth to set up shop.

But in recent years firms from Hiroshima to New York have started to take a second look at the British-ruled province.

The trend is no surprise to Maynard Mawhinney, who has the tough job selling Northern Ireland to companies abroad.

"This particular year has been very good for us," he says. "The

highest ever number of new inward investment jobs came in the 1993-94 financial year—more than 2,309 full-time jobs and 13 new projects."

The figures bettered even 1992-93's record of 1,945 new jobs created over 10 new projects.

But as director of international promotion at Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board (IDB), he knows the difficulties of promoting the region as a green-field site for industries seeking a European springboard.

"Our image overseas is not such that we can immediately go into a particular company and sing the virtues of setting up in Northern Ireland," he says.

"We've got to address the perception, the reality of what people understand about living in Northern Ireland from their television screens and that is a major obstacle."

But the success of the past year suggests that the IDB is gaining ground in a struggle to draw businesses in from abroad.

Taiwanese textile firm Hualon

decided earlier this year to site its only European plant in the province, bringing 1,800 fresh jobs to a region blighted by 13.1 percent unemployment—one of the bleakest records in Britain.

Since the IDB was founded in 1982, it has also attracted representatives of the Canadian aerospace industry, Indonesian fiber-producing interests, the New York computer industry, Japanese automobile component makers and South Korean electronic interests.

Asian companies often follow early arrivals from their own country.

The IDB, already staffing offices in Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei and US bureaus in Chicago, Los Angeles and San Jose, has set its sights on opening more in the

southern US and in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"People feel that Northern Ireland is an area where there is constant turmoil, that people do not follow a life-style that one would expect in London or in Düsseldorf or in Tokyo, and that it is a case of survival rather than quality of life," he says.

"Yes, there are atrocities that take place in Northern Ireland that are inexcusable. But these incidents are nevertheless isolated. So how does Mawhinney convince a business on the Pacific rim that Northern Ireland is the answer to its investment dreams?"

He cites reams of statistics showing that, in global terms, Northern Ireland is nowhere near as violent as it seems.

Wage rates are 10% lower than in Britain, 40% less than in Germany and far more attractive for employers than in Italy, France or Spain. He says education and training are among Europe's best and its workforce is loyal.

Goods can be delivered to the center of Europe in less than 24 hours, which is crucial for a company moving to the region.

The IDB provides a 30% capital grant to help with setting-in costs and 50% to businesses moving into its most depressed zones. (Reuter)

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The gamesman as artist

THE old argument about whether chess is a game, a science or an art is one which will never be resolved. There have been some moves to find an appropriate label so fund-raisers know which government department to approach.

In Yugoslavia they used to say: "Chess is chess." I like the Indian proverb: "Chess is a sea in which an elephant may swim and a gnat may drink." Different personality types are attracted to different aspects and forms of the game.

Correspondence players tend to be scientific types who don't mind waiting for days or even weeks for their opponents to move. They revel in the opportunity for research and deep unhurried calculations.

Problemists will be chess fans with definite artistic inclinations. Games-players, who may also be interested in cards or backgammon, will like the hurly-burly of the coffeehouse with quick games played for money stakes. Some players like endgames, others complex opening lines.

What has distinguished world champions has not necessarily been just talent or knowledge. Each of them, in different ways, seems to have had an innate will to succeed, to be No. 1.

I can think of a number of players who in many respects equaled or even surpassed the world champions of the day in terms of their understanding of chess. Akiba Rubinstein, for example, was one of the most creative and profound players in history. Another was Isaac Boleslavsky, who lost a play-off match to David Bronstein for the right to play Mikhail Botvinnik for his title.

Boleslavsky was a chessplayer's chessplayer, who had insights into positions that were not previously understood. Perhaps his most notable discovery was that Black could have a backward d-pawn in the Sicilian Defense. Thus the Boleslavsky Variation (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

Nc6 6.Be2 e5! was born.

He, along with Bronstein, was also the main pioneer of the King's Indian Defense. In the following game, played in the Budapest International of 1950, he uses this weapon in artful style.

Szabo, L. - Boleslavsky, I
King's Indian Defense

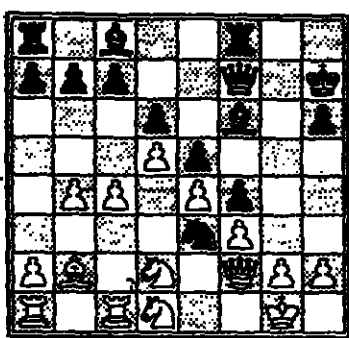
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.e4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 Nh5
Contemporary theory suggests that this is not good because of simply 8.g3, but Ya'acov Murei has suggested that Black can then play the knight back with 7...Nf6!7. The method behind this madness is that White has weakened his kingside and the standard pin in these positions with 8.Bg5, can simply be broken with 8...h6 (9.Bh4? g5).

Szabo tries to exploit the knight's wanderings in another way, but meets with a very clever pawn sacrifice.

8.Ng1 Nd7! 9.Bxb5 gxb5 10.Qxb5 Nc5 11.Nf3 f5 12.0-0 f4
Boleslavsky's calm play is deeply impressive. Rejecting the superficial 11...Nd3+ or 12...fxc4, he gradually lays siege to White's kingside.

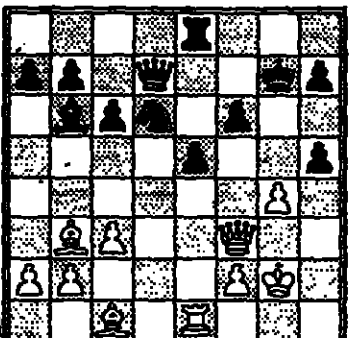
13.b4 Nd7 14.Bb2??
Boleslavsky later recommended that White return the pawn at this stage with 14.Ng5 Nf6 15.Qh4 Qe7 16.Ne6, in order to gain a measure of counterplay. This would also have been better on his 17th move.

14...Qe7 15.Ng5 Nf6 16.Qb4 h6 17.NB? Q7 18.Nd2 Nd4 19.f3 Nc3 20.Rf1 Kh7 21.Nd1 Bf6 22.Qf2 (see diagram)
22...Rg8!
Temporarily giving up a second pawn in order to breach White's defenses.
23.Na3 h3 24.Qx3 Bg5! 25.Qe2 Bxd2 26.Qxd2 Bh3 27.g3 Qx3 28.Rc3 Qxe4



Black could also have played for the attack with 28...Qh5, but this simple continuation is very strong.
29.e5 Rg7 30.Qc2 Qxc2 31.Rxc2 Rf8 32.Rf2 Rg7 33.Rxf7+ Rxf7 34.Rf1 Rf3 35.cxd6 cxd6 36.Bc1 Rd3 37.Be3 a6 38.Kf2 Rxd5
Creating two connected passed pawns, an ominous sign in any endgame.
39.Rc1 Kg6 40.Rc7 Rb5 41.Rc4 Be6 42.Rh4 h5 43.a4 Rd5 44.h3 Bd7 45.a5 Rd3 46.Ke2 0-1

THE PROBLEM this week is from Boleslavsky - Makogonov in the 1940 Soviet championship. White to play and win (solution beneath diagram).



Solution: Black's last move, ...g6xh5 was a serious mistake which allowed Boleslavsky to drive the enemy king into a mating net. There followed 1.Bh6+! Kg6 (1...Kxh6 2.Qf6 is mate) 2.gxh5+ and Black resigned because of 2...Kxh6 3.Qxf6+ Kxh5 4.Rh1+ followed by mate.



For centuries, the pomegranate has served as a symbol of fertility, for each fruit is bursting with the seeds of new generations. (Kenneth Fischer)

Nature's fruit of bounty

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THERE isn't a season when pomegranate trees are not possessed of a special beauty. Even in the depth of winter, the rosy-colored, switch-like branches form delicate, lacy patterns against the sky and tiny red buds punctuate the branches.

Throughout the spring, the shiny green leaves and bright orange, waxy flowers are so perfectly shaped they seem artificial. But it is now, just a few weeks before harvest, when the pomegranate tree is at its most glorious. The big globes of ripening red fruit hang so heavily that the tree bends, and the leaves, darker than in spring, have lost none of their luster.

Pomegranate trees are ancient residents. King Saul, the Bible tells us, camped under such a tree, and the Song of Songs compares the beloved's countenance behind her veil to halves of pomegranates.

The fruit of this tree has long served in paintings, mosaics and jewelry as a symbol of fertility, for each pomegranate is bursting with the seeds of new generations. The only other plant so honored is the cardamom, and for the same reason.

Pomegranates are beautiful and tasty as well, although few people make the most of them. Their juice is wonderful in corn-flour (cornstarch) pudding or pomegranate pie, us-

ing a lemon pie recipe. Boil the juice with sugar for a syrup that, mixed with water or soda, makes a summer cooler. And fermented pomegranate juice makes a delicious semi-sec wine. Keep these uses in mind because, if you have a pomegranate tree, you have far too many pomegranates to eat straight.

Herbalists use all parts of the tree in preparing remedies. The tough outer skin of the fruit is boiled to make a tea that is a specific for dysentery, the ground seeds are used to increase fertility and the bark is made into a very strong tea which is said to staunch bleeding. These attributes may well be due to the high tannin content of the fruit and the bark.

Pomegranates also have very high iron content. Herbalists say they are good for anemia, although I'm not sure how much of the iron is absorbed by the body.

Birds love ripe pomegranates. Since a lot of the fruit bursts on the tree, especially if the tree is irrigated, flocks come to feast on the juicy seeds. Fruit bats also enjoy the opened fruit and often soil the tree with their droppings.

Since the skin of the fruit is extremely tough, it is usually only the ripe, burst ones that get eaten by wildlife. In any case, the trees are so prolific that there's usually plenty for everyone. Put some of the fruit in brown paper bags to protect your share of the bounty.

Post-vacation first-aid

GARDENING

INEZ KLIMIST

IT was a lovely vacation, and now you're back, but your dear friend and neighbor who said she would keep your garden watered and weeded - well, it didn't quite work out that way. In short, your garden is a mess. Watering and weeding alone will not keep the garden looking good. Serious gardeners take a daily tour to check for chewing insects or fungus on the roses and generally to look for trouble spots.

Start with the weeding, and collecting dead annuals. Throw it all on the compost heap. Water the ground thoroughly. The soil is probably compacted, and water will run off instead of soaking in, so hoe gently with a two-toothed cultivator or a hand tool. This will start the weeding process, too. If weeds are very close to the roots of your plants, get down and pull them out by hand. Right away the garden will begin to look better.

Forgive your friend. It really has been dreadfully hot. If some of your perennials have taken a beating, prune off all dead material, give them a feeding of fertilizer and lots of daily watering. New leaves will appear quickly.

Chemical fertilizers will act more quickly than organic ones to renew growth since they are already in a form that can be taken up directly by the roots. Every week, use a liquid fertilizer that can be mixed with water and poured directly on leaves and roots. If you prefer 20-20-20, spread it around the base of your perennials, bushes and trees every couple of weeks. Be careful not to use too much. A little bit at a time is much better than a big dose all at once. Too much 20-20-20 will burn roots and kill your plants.

A good thick layer of organic compost will be healthy for your garden as it decays slowly, and keeps the soil evenly moist.

A TRIP to the nursery will do wonders for your sad garden. Fill in empty spaces with some of the bright fall annuals available now. Some marigolds will light up beds wonderfully. Asters, stocks, sweet william, dianthus and chrysanthemums will all add fall color.

Now it's time to divide four- or five-year-old iris clumps if the leaves are getting smaller and sparser. Irises can get too crowded by reproducing through their thick fleshy roots called rhizomes. When digging these up, be very careful not to damage the surface skin. Fungus diseases will attack a cut rhizome and kill it quickly.

A garden fork is the best tool for this job. Cut the clump apart with a sharp knife. Don't break it apart. Cut away the leaves in the shape of a fan about 14 cm. long. Take a good look at the rhizomes. Discard any that have worm holes or soft spots, or are dried out and dead. Plant only firm and healthy looking rhizomes. Show your neighbor you still love her by giving her a few, too. You'll have more than you can use.

Don't plant them too deeply. Just below the surface of the soil is best. Be sure your rhizomes go into good rich soil, with lots of sun and good drainage.

When removing dead leaves, cut, don't rip, them away, to avoid splitting the rhizome. Irises do best with some space around the leaves. Don't make them compete with other perennials by planting them too close together.

A prize play for juniors

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer
North-South vulnerable

North		East	
♠ KQ105		♠ A632	
♥ KQ965		♥ 10	
♦ 83		♦ KQ1062	
♣ 84		♣ 532	

South		West	
♠ J974		♠ 8	
♥ A8432		♥ J7	
♦ A		♦ J97	
♣ AQ1065		♣ AQ1065	

THE 14th European Junior Teams Bridge Championships took place last month in Papendal in the Netherlands. Twenty-two teams, all under the age of 26, competed, and Britain won, followed by Denmark and Poland.

Israel finished eighth, after leading at the midway point. The members of our team were: Michael Barei, of Rehovot, an electronics engineer; Arick Perlmutter, of Hadera, a computer engineer; Amir Levin, of Tel Aviv, who gave up a promising tennis career to concentrate on bridge; Eran Mermelstein, of Kfar Sava, an expert Takti player; Asa Levinger (the youngest member,

at 17, started playing at age 11); and Dani Amal, who recently earned a degree in economics. Most members of the team are also serving in the army.

The surprise of the European Schools Teams Championship was the Israeli team, which won a bronze medal, placing third in a field of 13 teams of players aged 20 or under. France won the event and Norway was second.

The Israeli School Team, competing in its first international event, was captained by Uri Gilboa of Jerusalem and coached by David Birman and Ilan Herbst of Tel Aviv. This is how the tournament's daily bulletin described the players: Ranny Schneider, 18, just graduated from high school, plays bridge every day in his parents' club and loves to play pool. Guy Arie, 18, from Ashdod, is a first-year law student and has been playing bridge for four years. [He went into the army immediately upon his return to Israel.] Yaniv Zak, 19, has been playing for five years. He is studying electronics and in Papendal paid more attention to water-polo girls [a visiting German sports team] than anything else. Asaf Amit, 18, has been playing bridge for seven years. He loves sports - on TV. Aram Warsawski, 19, is studying electronics; he remembers every score in the recent World Cup football matches and every important date in history. He also plays some bridge. Nir Katz, 20, is a computer programmer [in the

army] and plays table tennis in the Israeli minor league.

Today's deal comes from the School Teams match against Belarus. We were heading for a huge defeat in the first half of the match when this deal was played on the table. Because of aggressive, but sound, bidding by both Israeli pairs, we were able to make a comeback and eventually score 14 out of 30 victory points.

At both tables West opened the bidding with a preemptive three clubs and North passed. The ball was now in East's court. The player from Belarus passed three clubs, and Schneider doubled for takeout with the South hand. Arie jumped to four hearts with the North hand and that ended the bidding. Four hearts could have been defeated if East had led a club and West shifted to his singleton spade. East can win and give a ruff and the defense must still come to a diamond trick. But East led the king of diamonds and Arie was able to win the first trick, draw trumps and concede only one spade, one diamond and one club, for plus 620.

At the other table Amit also opened three clubs, but his partner, Zack, continued the preempt with a jump to five clubs. He did not expect to make this contract, but merely wanted to make it as difficult as possible for North-South to find their way into the auction. A surprise was in store for the Israelis when West was able to make 11 tricks. He lost only the two red aces, ending plus 400. That meant the Israeli scored a game contract in both rooms for a total of 1,020 points, a rare achievement.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 7 Skeleton service? (4,5)
- 8 Test for car or engine (5)
- 10 A train driver (8)
- 11 No traffic is met in such a street (3,3)
- 12 Go ahead with a new deal (4)
- 13 Musical instrument untouched (8)
- 15 Rough-looking punk met with violence (7)
- 17 Cut off, and also tie off (7)
- 20 Toothsome vegetable - grown only for decoration (5,3)
- 22 Trendy accountant was found in Peru (4)

DOWN

- 25 Pole position? (6)
- 26 Highly attractive part of Belgium (8)
- 27 Vegetable has one on both sides (5)
- 28 Port of fine quality (9)
- 1 The boson is out to make extra money (5)
- 2 Strict clergyman turns up in the diocese (6)
- 3 Animal disinfectant mixed deep inside the vessel (8)
- 4 A stroke by a batsman, going for a run perhaps? (2,5)

5 Makings of a mountain? (8)

6 One tap-bar drunk may think himself Napoleon (9)

9 Time to do a hand's turn (4)

14 Responding to a phone call about disturbing news (9)

16 Emergency exit for a pilot (8)

18 There's a certain wildness in such devious dealings (8)

19 Dash to get article into cheap production (7)

21 Wolves forwards playing Rugby (4)

23 Stick around at home like a dog (6)

24 Finish with conclusion of judge in lawsuit (5)

Yesterdays' Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Bed, 3 Ransomed, 9 Under, 10 Alceas, 11 Don, 18 Armadillo, 14 Deduce, 18 Admits, 18 Plaintiff, 20 New, 25 Animate, 25 Right, 25 Engineer, 25 Each.
DOWN: 1 Banned, 2 Bed, 4 Broom, 5 Decided, 6 Berolina, 7 Despot, 8 Arise, 12 Enduring, 14 Deprive, 18 Contain, 17 Broom, 19 Pace, 21 Watch, 24 Go.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Fear (6)
- 4 Range (6)
- 8 Accumulate (5)
- 9 Axe (7)
- 10 Reversal (7)
- 11 Grates (4)
- 12 Sheep (3)
- 14 Image (4)
- 15 Riddle (4)
- 18 Blunder (3)
- 21 Ceremony (4)
- 22 Sad (7)
- 25 Odd (7)
- 26 Steam-bath (5)
- 27 Tale (5)
- 28 Maintain (6)

DOWN

- 1 Husky (6)
- 2 Responded (7)
- 3 Hindrance (8)
- 4 Location (4)
- 5 Different (6)
- 6 Respect (6)
- 7 Tremble (5)
- 13 Stress (8)
- 16 Catch (7)
- 17 Emergency (6)
- 19 Monarch (5)
- 20 Despot (6)
- 22 Trunk (5)
- 24 Resentment (4)

Haifa and North
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of learning

A wedding ceremony for the Tel Aviv yuppie

Reform wedding ceremonies are becoming more popular even though they are not recognized by the state, Haim Shapiro reports

IDO Yifat stamped his foot and crushed the glass while some 500 guests cheered. But the wedding at Kibbutz Ma'anit this week will never be recorded in the Interior Ministry.

The ceremony was performed by Rabbi Meir Azari, spiritual leader of the Beit Daniel Community Center and Synagogue in Tel Aviv, a Reform congregation.

"We wanted something different," said Varda Gertler, the bride, shortly before the ceremony, when asked why she had decided to have a Reform wedding.

Gertler, a student of business management, said she and her groom were particularly impressed that they would be treated as equals.

Yifat, who is in charge of the chicken coops at the kibbutz, also has a degree in economics.

The couple were sitting with Rabbi Azari in the kibbutz dining hall, where he had both bride and groom sign the ketuba, which they had composed. Also signing the marriage contract were three witnesses, two women and one man.

The couple plan to go to Cyprus next week to be married in a civil ceremony, after which they can be registered by the Interior Ministry here as married.

According to Azari, this is one of a growing number of weddings he is asked to perform. The kibbutz wedding was actually an exception, as most of those he performs are for affluent young urbanites.

"Tel Aviv yuppies have discovered the Reform movement," he said.

He attributes at least some of the synagogue's popularity to its



Reform Rabbi Meir Azari performs the nuptials of Eugene and Etti Nacht. But to make it valid here, the couple must also get married abroad.

location on Rehov Bnei Dan, across from the Yarkon Park.

The municipality allocated the lot to the Reform Movement about 10 years ago, when that part of North Tel Aviv was not particularly attractive, he said. Since then, the area has undergone gentrification and attracted a young, educated population, he said.

Azari added that many of the weddings he performs are for couples whom the rabbinate refuses to marry, because the union is forbidden according to Halacha —

such as that between a *cohen* and a divorcee.

But this is not true of all of those who choose a Reform ceremony. "There was no halachic obstacle to our marriage," Gertler said.

At a meeting of the Knesset Law Committee this week, MK Dedi Zucker of Meretz quoted figures showing that the rabbinate registers some 21,000 weddings a year, while 10 years ago they registered 26,000 a year. This despite the increase in population.

According to Israeli law, only a

recognized marriage registrar (an Orthodox rabbi) may perform a Jewish marriage. Azari admitted he is technically breaking the law whenever he performs a wedding ceremony.

"The non-Jewish official in Cyprus has more authority than I do," he said.

He said every couple whom he marries must commit themselves to an official marriage in Cyprus or elsewhere and sign a prenuptial agreement stipulating that, if the marriage breaks up, both parties

will go to the civil courts, not the rabbinical courts.

One bride who is included in the official rabbinic statistics is Maki Osharov, a graduate in sociology and Jewish history who worked at Beit Daniel before her wedding.

On the morning of her wedding day, she and her groom, an electronics engineer, went to the Tel Aviv Rabbinate, where they were officially married in a modest ceremony.

In the evening, they had the ceremony to which they invited

their friends and family.

She said that although many of her friends expressed admiration for the ceremony, few would choose such a wedding.

"It's not something that everyone's family accepts," she said.

Azari said the Reform Movement, with which most Israelis are unfamiliar, is getting maximum exposure through the weddings, each attended by hundreds of guests.

He said similar exposure comes through the many bar- and bat-

mitzva celebrations in the synagogue. There are two bar or bat mitzvahs every Shabbat, one in the morning and one at the afternoon service, he said.

The children take part in a year-long program prior to the ceremony to give them an understanding of Judaism and their Jewish heritage, he said.

Tel Aviv's sole Reform synagogue has also raised its profile with its conversion classes, which Azari said have about 50 participants. Many of those taking part in the classes are immigrants from the former Soviet Union or other Eastern European countries who have not been recognized as Jews.

Although the participants do all their studying and even undergo ritual immersion in Israel, they then travel to a Western European country, such as England or Holland, where the Reform rabbinical court performs the conversion.

In that way, he said, the convert is recognized as a Jew according to the Law of Return. Many of the converts are then married in Reform ceremonies.

One such wedding was that of Eugene Nacht, a theater director, and his wife Etti, an English teacher. Nacht's father, Stroe Nacht, is a leading actor, director and theater-owner in Romania, as well as one of the leading lights of Jewish theater there. Nacht's mother was not Jewish, and he was converted after attending the conversion class at Beit Daniel.

Etti Nacht said she felt the wedding was very special, because she was accorded equality with her husband and understood every word of the ketuba, which was in Hebrew. Her father is religious, and she was concerned about how he would take the Reform ceremony, she said.

"But he's a very open person and you could see he enjoyed the way it took place," she said.

She added that Azari and the cantor contributed much of their own personalities to the ceremony. In particular, "the *hazan* created a light atmosphere," she said. Cantor Freddie Peer, who recited the blessings, comes from an Orthodox family. He sees his participation in such ceremonies as a mitzva.

"These are people who are choosing between a Reform wedding and signing a contract in a lawyer's office," he said.

Kirk Douglas casts a giant donation for Jerusalem youth

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

RECENTLY seen in the starring role of David Marcus in the television rerun of *Cast a Giant Shadow*, Kirk Douglas, actor-turned-novelist, is due to arrive in Israel on September 9 for a three-day visit.

Douglas is contributing funds for two playgrounds in Jerusalem, in both the eastern and western sectors of the city. The donation, reportedly made at his own initiative, is being channeled through

The Jerusalem Foundation. Although many other Jewish (and non-Jewish) entertainers have inaugurated projects in the capital, this is the first time that Douglas, once known as Issar Danielovich Demsky, has done so.

THE PRIME Minister's Office has not only a new spokesman for internal affairs, Benny Cohen, but also a newly eligible single — director-general Shimon Sheves.

Sheves and his wife, Arnona, last week appeared before the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court to get a divorce after having been separated for nearly a year.

IS WITHHOLDING the truth on tax matters a two-way street?

The question was put by stand-up comedian and television talk-show host Duda Topaz following Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's unabashed declaration that the government cannot be expected to be entirely truthful when it comes to matters relating to taxes and devaluations. It could be interesting to see the outcome if Topaz fudges it when he reports his taxable income.

FOR THE pony-tailed musician, it was indeed an emotional occasion, tinged with historic significance. The home to which Gideon Meir had been invited to give a harpsichord recital had once been lived in by his grandmother, Golda Meir. His parents had been married there, next to the Jerusalem Theater.

Since moving in, Yael Amichav and her husband, Dr. David Medved, have made considerable changes to what was Golda's official residence when she was labor minister. One of the carry-overs from Golda's era is the flagpole on the balcony, from which the national flag flutters proudly. The Medveds planned the program to start at 6:30 p.m., so guests could first enjoy the broad panoramic views.

AUSTRALIAN filmmaker Montague Schwartz has returned home after four and a half months of research here for her next production, which will focus on the Jewish mother in film.

According to Schwartz, who received a grant from Melbourne University, footage will be shot in the US, Israel and Australia, and the finished product will shatter many myths — but not the one about chicken soup.

ALTHOUGH NOT yet completely restored to health, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir this week attended her first cabinet session since undergoing brain surgery in Switzerland in June.

Namir's internationally renowned Yugoslav surgeon, Prof. Vasek Dolenz, who is currently performing complicated operations at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, says Namir will be in fine fettle by the end of the year.

THE RECIPIENTS of many hard knocks, the media nonetheless remain a powerful force. Some of the credit for the sudden availability of funds to enable the continuation of Tel Aviv's opera workshop, conducted each summer by master-class teacher Jean Dornemann, belongs to the news departments of television Channels 1 and 2.

Both channels gave prominence to news features on the possible demise of the much-lauded program, directing the blame at Tel Aviv Mayor Romni Milo, who had decided to deny the project further municipal funding. The planned cutback, which did not go over well in the cultural circles of the city that never stops, has since been canceled.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert took to the airwaves to promote next week's scheduled concert at the Sultan's Pool of superstar Plácido Domingo. Opera buffs have snapped up nearly all the \$600 tickets, which are the most expensive. More than 2,000 tickets in various price ranges were reportedly sold in the first week of sales. On Wednesday it

was reported that the superstar was ill and the concert might have to be postponed.

THE YEAR 1996, which has been declared the Jerusalem Tricentennial, is also the year in which the future status of the city is to be discussed with the Palestinians. Foreign television networks are already gearing up for it. Celebrated American TV producer Gay Smith met this week with Olmert to touch base on coverage of the capital's 3,000th anniversary.

CZECH MATE. Author Hans Greenfield has been elected to the PEN Club of the Czech Republic. A Holocaust survivor, the Czechoslovakian-born Greenfield's book, *Fragments of Memory* — now published in Czech, English and German — is available in Prague bookstores.

More important to Greenfield herself is the success of the essay



Douglas: Recently seen on TV, soon to be seen on Jerusalem's streets.

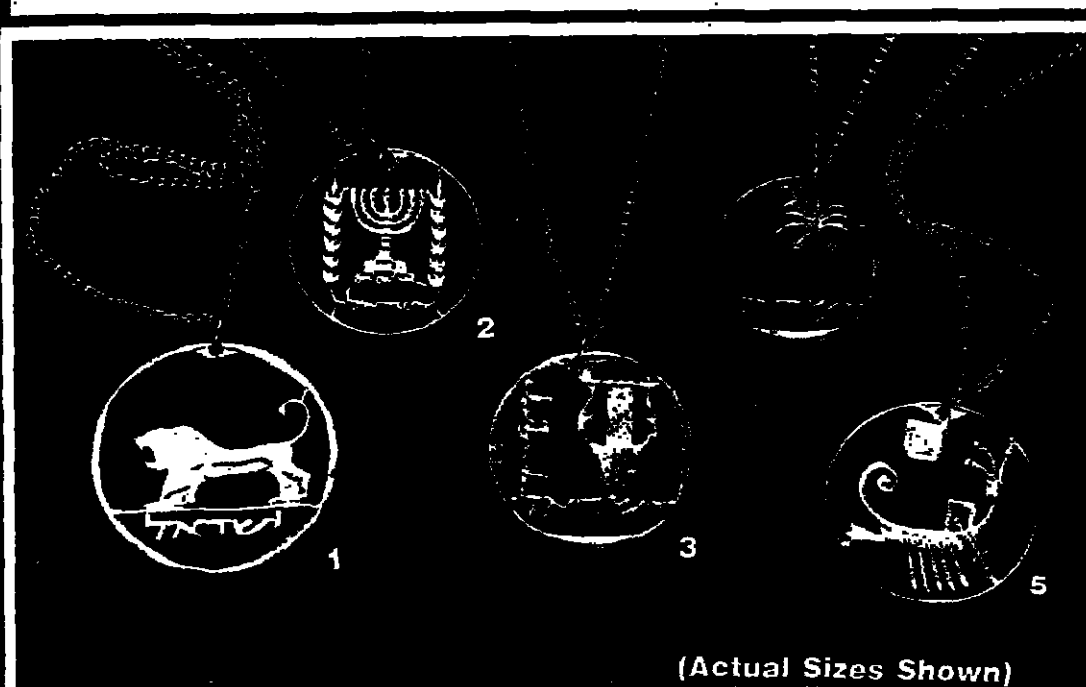
real hair and priced at up to \$1,500 each. Most of the people attending, however, were much more interested in the large-screen video demonstrations of hair extension for which Eli Cohen is better known.

Cohen, who studied hair weaving in the US, revamped the technique for Israeli needs and has woven new hair into the thinning strands of hundreds of appreciative Israelis. Cohen, who is almost bald from the crown forwards, is a walking example of his own art. His hair extension is neither a wig nor a transplant, he explained.

It is a system of intricate knotting, which looks entirely natural and does not come apart under the shower or during a swim.

FOLK SINGER Betty Klein has appeared in concert with many Russian-born immigrants who are searching for their Jewish roots. In

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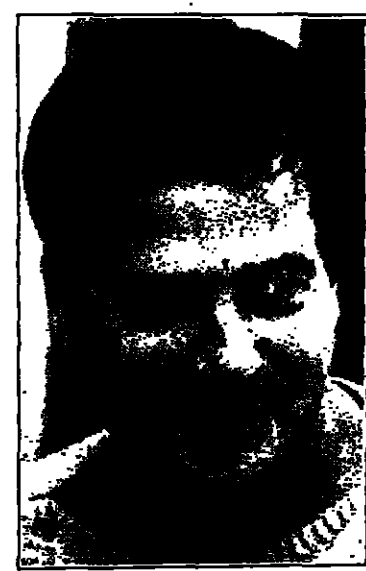
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Topaz: If Rabin isn't always truthful about tax matters, what about us? (Irit Sapir)

contest, which she inaugurated in conjunction with the Theresienstadt Ghetto Museum. Czech education authorities, who have been trying for a long time to arouse more interest in Holocaust history and related issues among young Czechs, were amazed at the thousands of entries which poured in from high-school pupils.

The six winning essays will receive monetary prizes and be published in the local papers of the cities and towns in which the writers reside. Greenfield, who lives in Tel Aviv, has been notified from Prague that the essay contest has been incorporated into the school system.

THE SHERATON Hotel had an inventive one-day solution for taking care of their employees' children during the summer vacation — they put them to work.

The youngsters, aged from four to 13, were paid in chocolate

coins, which may not have been too good for their teeth but conveyed the sweet smell of success.

Deputy general manager Yossi Wircer — to ensure that there would be no disputes over assigned tasks between his daughter Daniella, 11, and his son Adam, 10 — put them both to work in the doorman's department. The youngsters treated the job as a joint effort, and one of the first people for whom they opened the door was Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

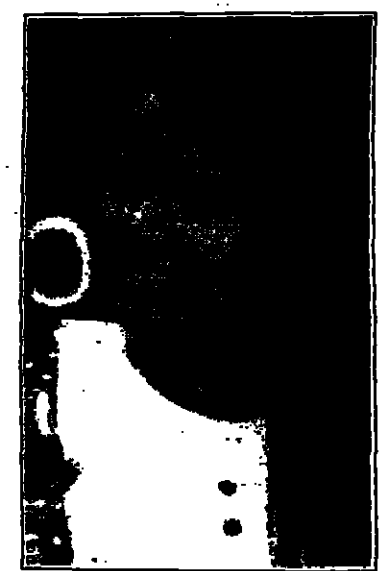
NEVER ONE to do what everyone else is doing, former Likud MK Reuven Rivlin did not ask Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau to officiate last week at the wedding of his daughter Rivli to Shmuel Sharvit. Nor did he approach any other Ashkenazi clergyman.

The rabbi who did the honors was a representative of the Sephardi community — the Deputy Knesset Speaker, Rabbi Yosef Azran. This was in deference to the groom.

The event at Moshav Shoreshe was attended by numerous parliamentarians, including David Levy, with whom Rivlin is most closely associated; there were also sporting personalities and Rivlin's left-wing friends on the irreverent TV talk-show *There's No One To Talk To*.

CONSIDERING THAT the event was intended to attract a clientele from Bnei Brak, the choice of models to announce the opening of the Tzipi and Eli Hair Center in Ramat Gan's D-Mall was not exactly in the spirit of the occasion.

Former beauty queen Ravit Asaf and her live-in companion, Avi Hazan, whose life-style does not exactly conform with that of the religious community, modeled sophisticated wigs fashioned from



Assaf: Is the former beauty queen's hair for real or is it a wig? (Daniel Levi)

recent days, Klein, whose forte is Ladino music, shared the bill with an entirely different group of people who are also looking for their Jewish roots.

Klein was invited to open the first-ever Sephardic Festival in the old Jewish quarter of the Spanish village of Ribadavia, where she met several descendants of Marranos who told her of Jewish customs they still practice — such as Friday night candle lighting.

The festival was organized by the Center of Medieval Studies, which was established by a group of Jews, Marranos and others interested in Spain's Jewish history.

Xosa Ramon Aparicio Montero, one of the CMS founders and the chief organizer of the festival, is a descendant of Pedro Aparicio, who in the 17th century was one of 40 Ribadavians rounded up and punished for the secret practice of Judaism. Montero now wants to learn Hebrew.